

Start With A Happy Ending #1

ハッピーエンドで
はじめよう



RISA
MOTOYAMA

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In an instant, a host of the recently deceased discover that they've been given another shot at happiness...as adorable cats! Will they make the most of their seven-day opportunity? Or will the fur fly as they struggle to figure out what life's all about?

Start with a Happy Ending follows finicky felines and curious kittens as they take a crash course in the ups and downs of existence! Can reincarnation give a legion of lost souls the wake-up call they truly need?



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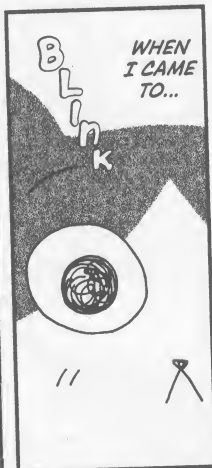
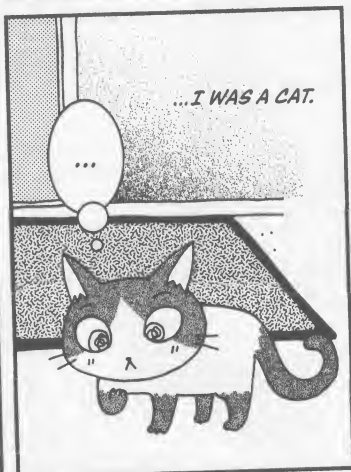


RISA
MOTOYAMA

第 1 話

時間は有限🐾

CHAPTER 1 LIMITED TIME



Start With A Happy Ending #1

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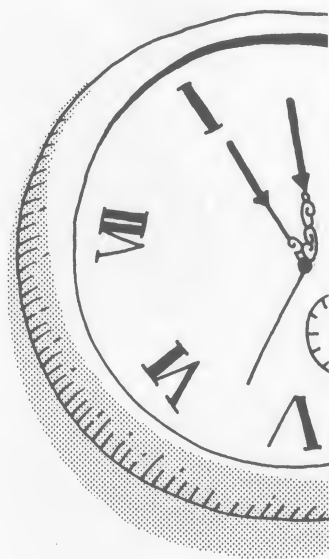
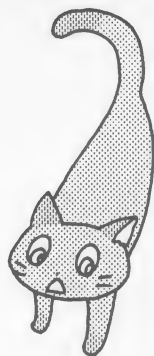
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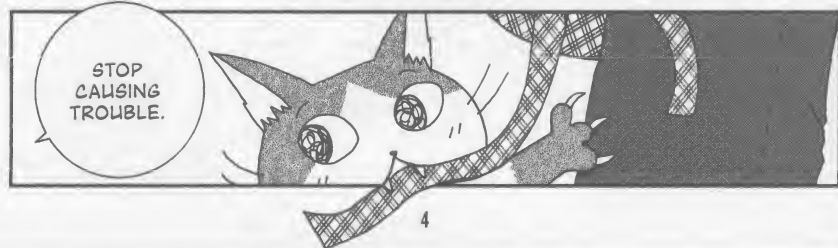
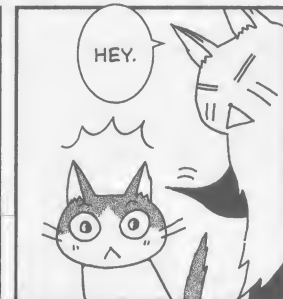
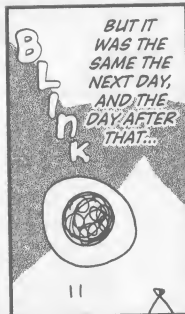
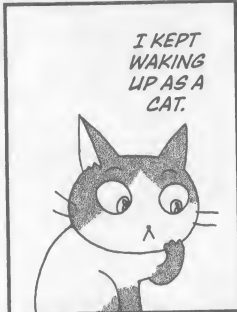
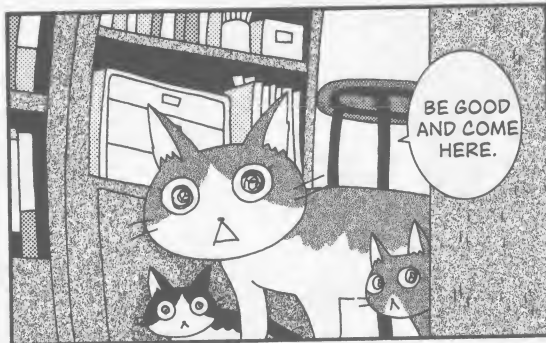
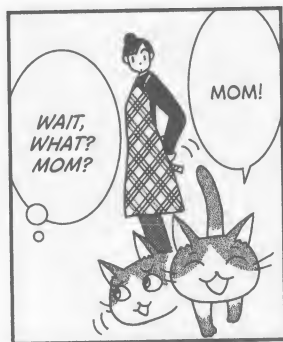
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NOW
HOW AM
I GOING
TO KILL
TIME?

I'VE
PRETTY
MUCH
READ
EVERY
BOOK IN
HERE.

I HOPE
LUNCH
BREAK
ENDS
SOON.

AND ON...

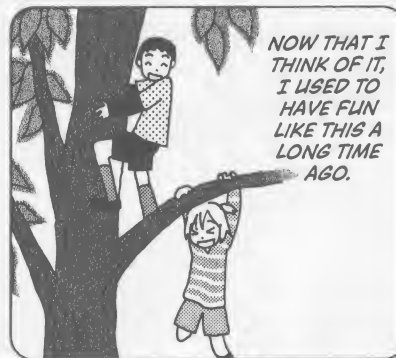
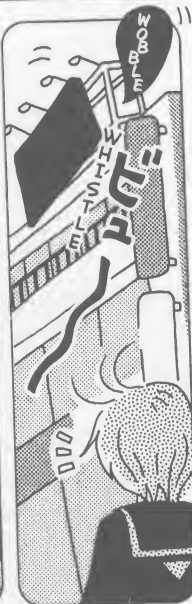


LIBRARY

THE DAYS
SEEMED
TO DRAG
ON...



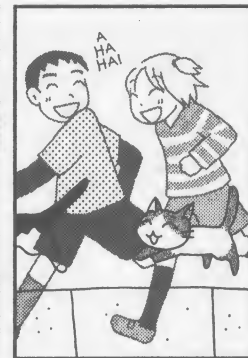
I GUESS I
SHOULD BUY
A BOOK ON
MY WAY HOME
TO READ
TOMORROW.



NOW THAT I
THINK OF IT,
I USED TO
HAVE FUN
LIKE THIS A
LONG TIME
AGO.



STOP



A HA HA!



WHO
DOES
SHE
THINK
SHE IS?

SHE'S GOT A
BOYFRIEND?
BUT SHE'S
ONLY A
FIRST YEAR!

WE'RE
JUST
FRIENDS.

YOU
GUYS A
COUPLE
OR
SOME-
THING?



WHEN DID
EVERY-
THING
START TO
FEEL SO
BORING?



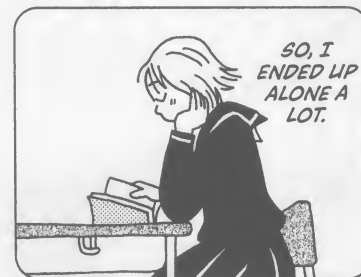
HMPH!

AFTER THAT, MY
BEST FRIEND
AND I STOPPED
TALKING.



N-NO WAY,
I'D NEVER
GO OUT
WITH A GUY
LIKE HIM!

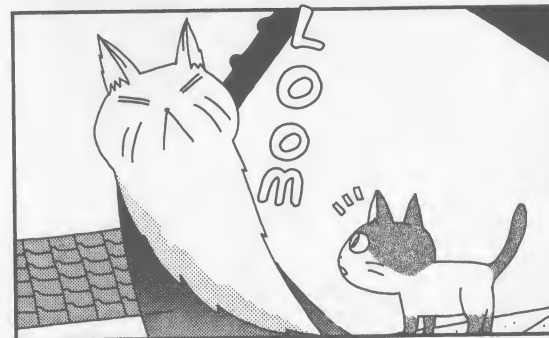
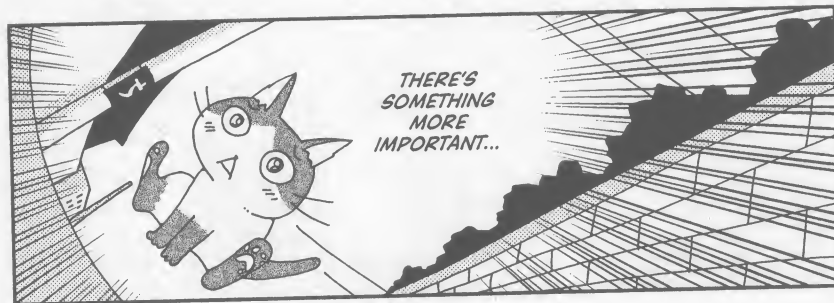
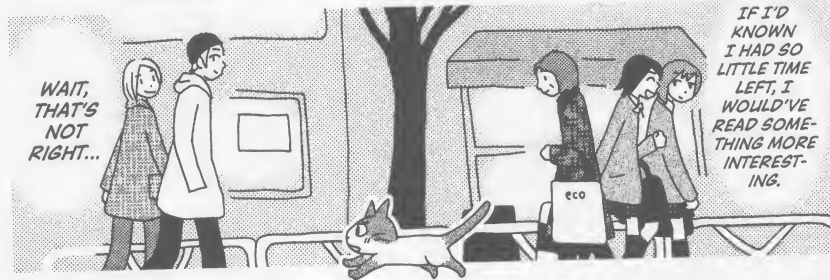
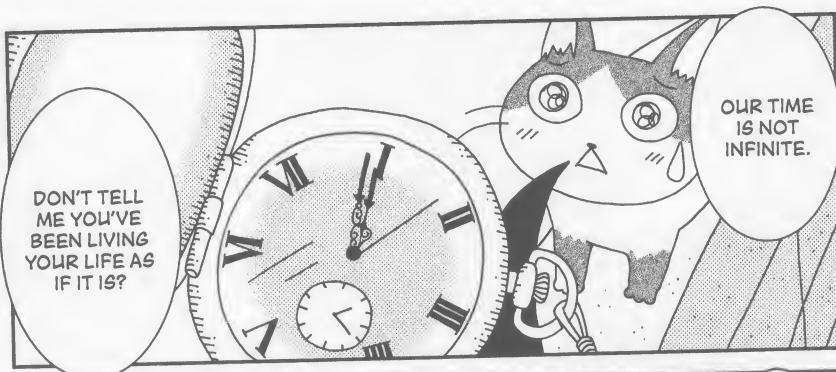
EVERYONE
GAVE US A
HARD TIME,
AND IT MADE
THINGS
AWKWARD.



SO, I
ENDED UP
ALONE A
LOT.

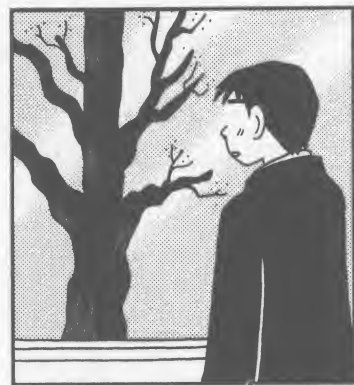
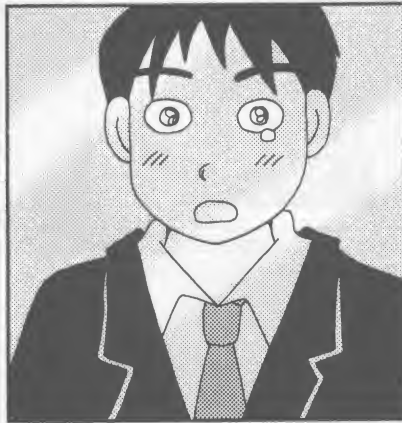


BUT I NEVER
FELT LIKE I
FIT IN WITH
THE GIRLS.



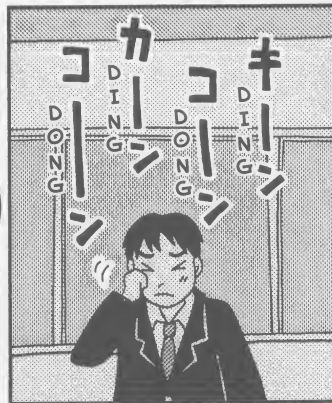


BEFORE THOSE
FEELINGS
DISAPPEAR
FOREVER!

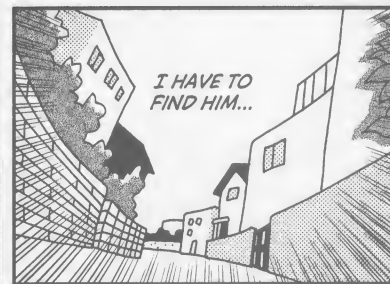


TICK

IT'S
TIME.



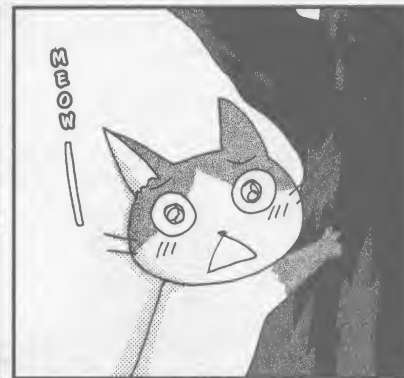
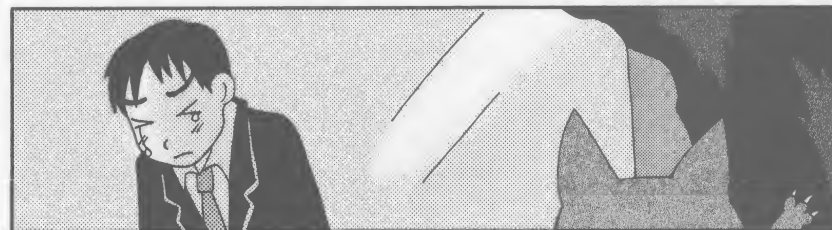
I HAVE TO TELL
HIM...



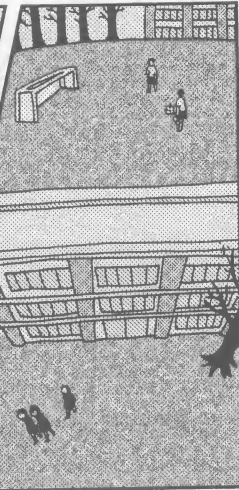
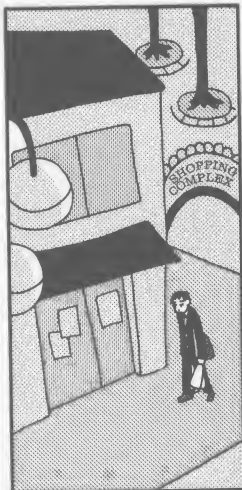
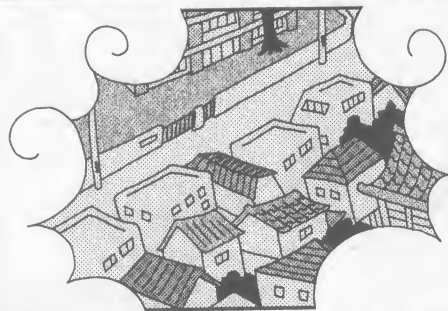
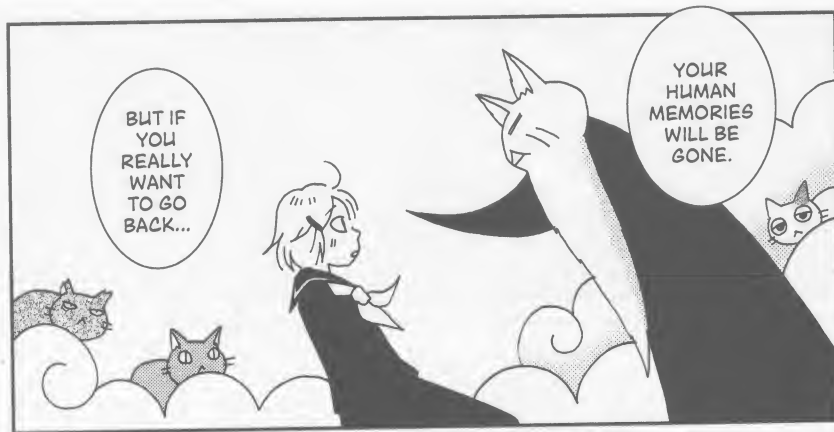
I HAVE TO
FIND HIM...

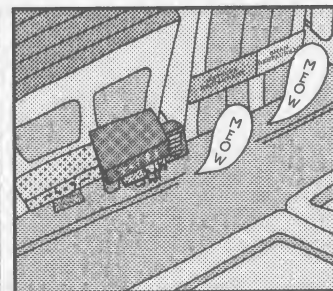
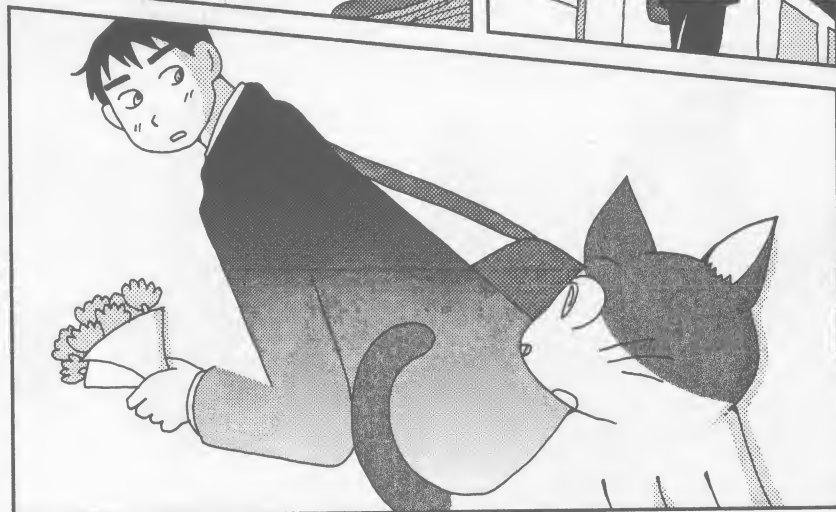
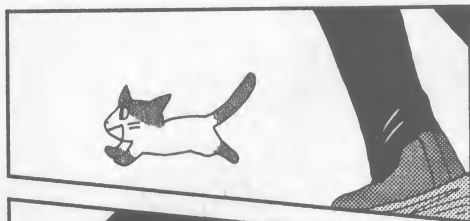
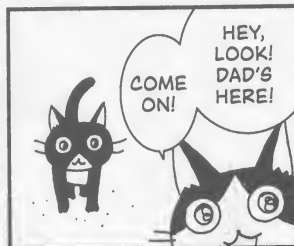
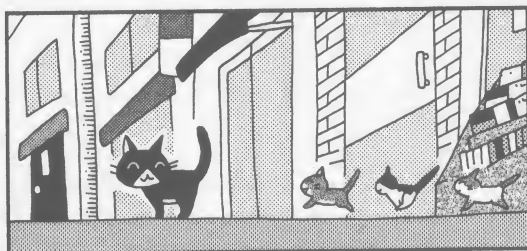


...HOW I
REALLY
FEEL!



HOME





第2話

コンプレックス

CHAPTER 2 COMPLEX

UH...

OKAY, SO AFTER
I CONFIRM
THE INFO FOR
THE SHIPMENT
TODAY, I HAVE
TO...

W-WHAT
TIME IS
IT?

WHERE
AM I?

Blink

SAKURA
BOOKSTORE

I'D LIKE TO
ADOPT THIS
KITTEN.

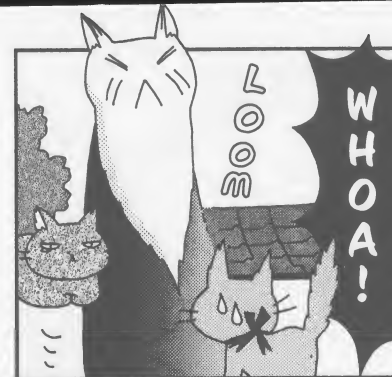
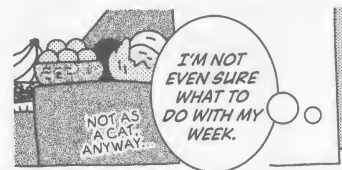
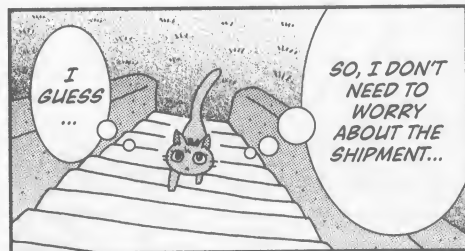
FREE
KITTEENS
ASK
INSIDE

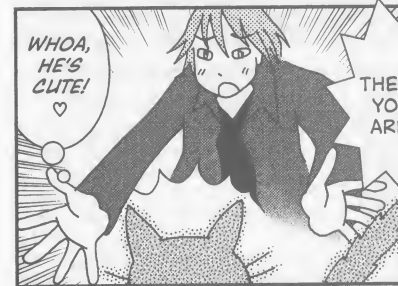
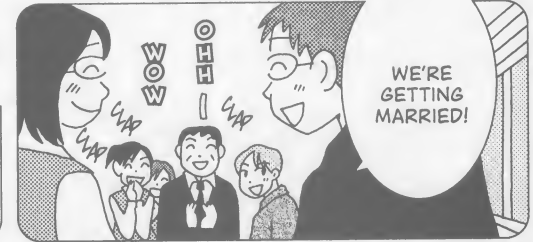
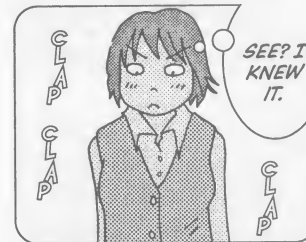
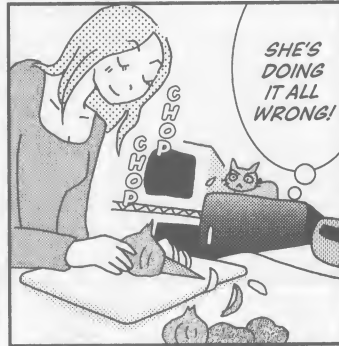
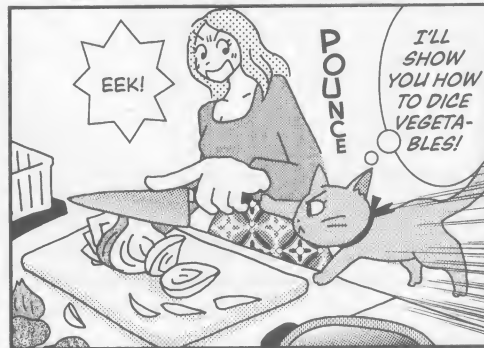
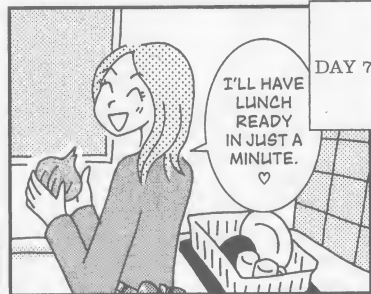
UM,
EXCUSE
ME.

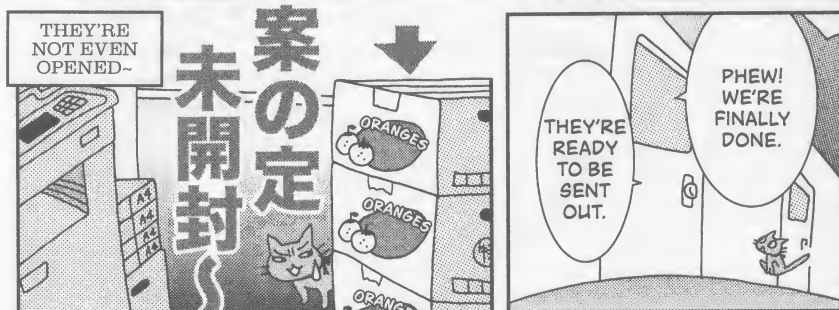
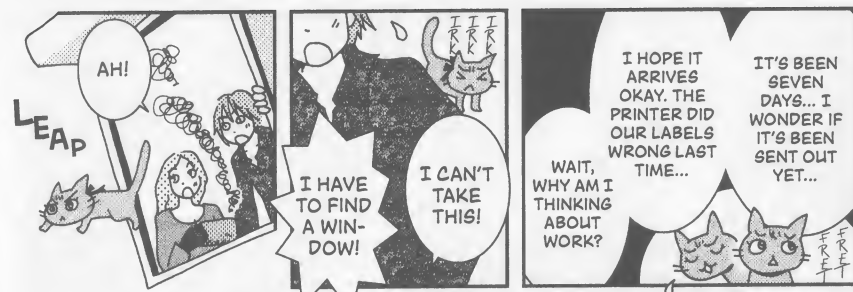
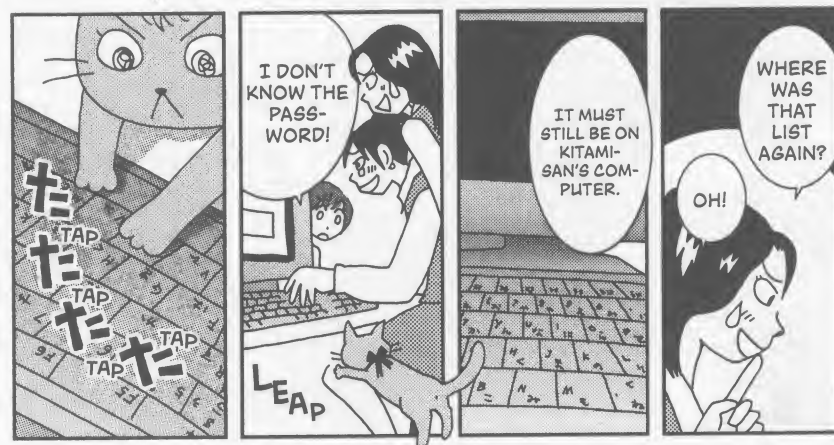
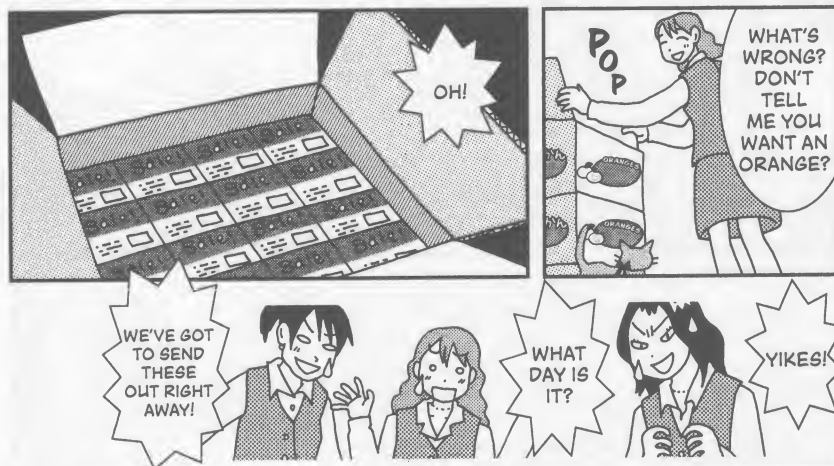
AND
FUN...

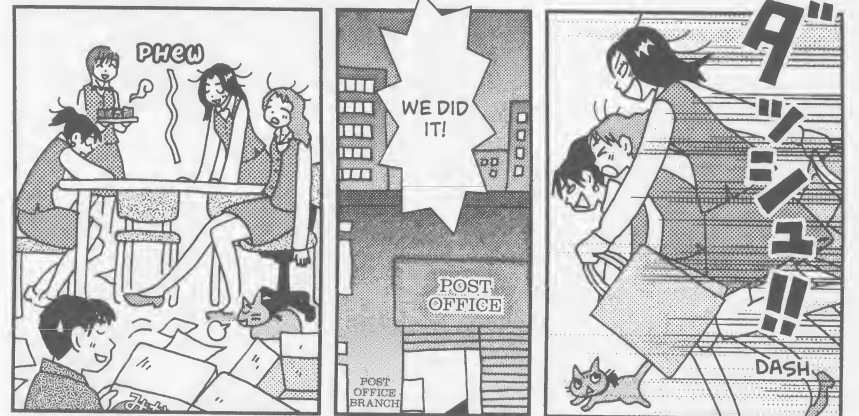
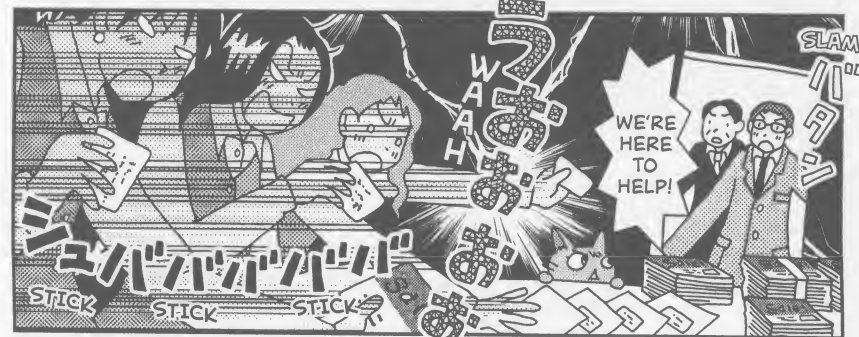
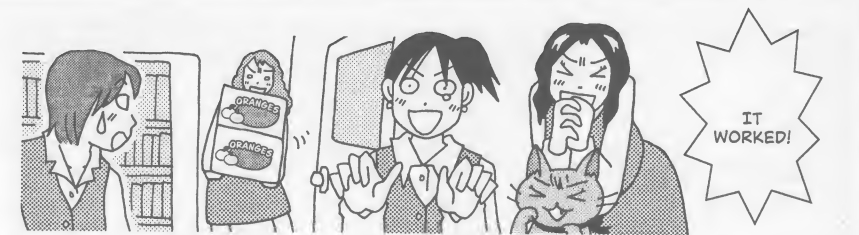
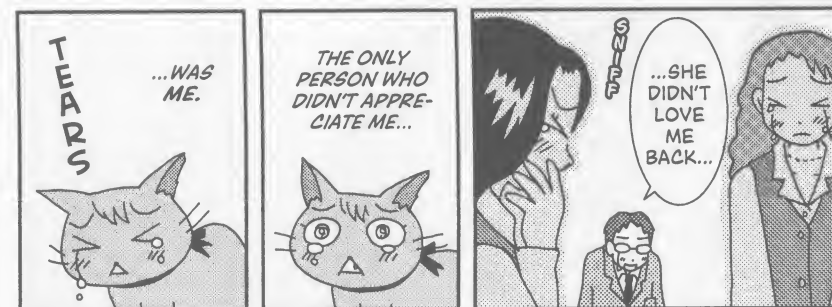
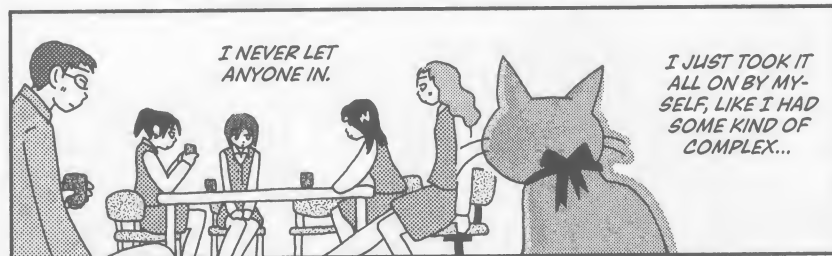
THE
WORLD
IS SO
BRIGHT...

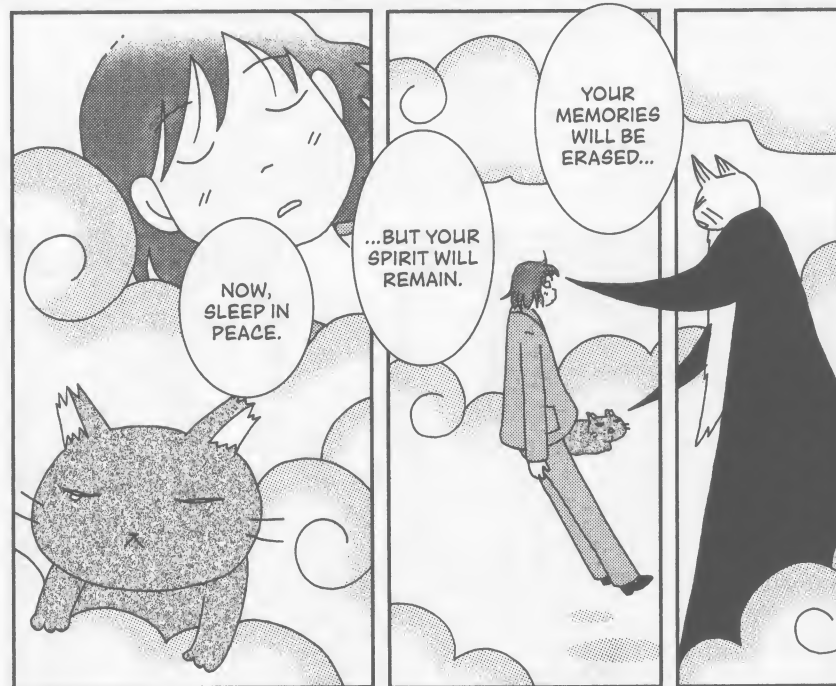
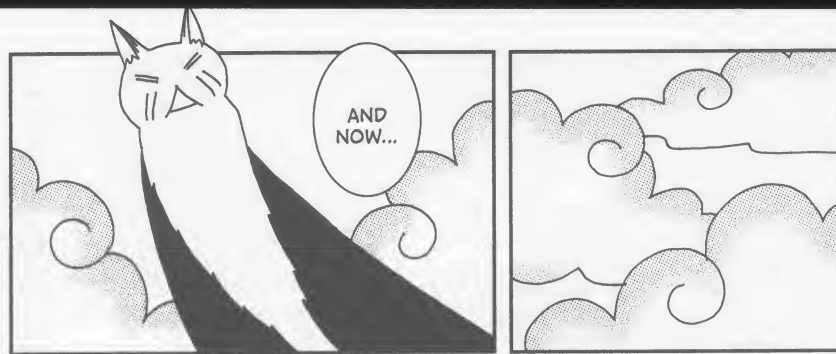
I LOVE EVERY
MOMENT!







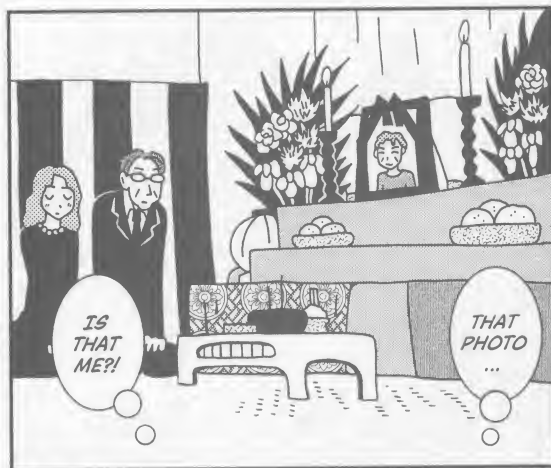






OH, DO I HAVE GUESTS?

WHAT AM I DOING SLEEPING OUT HERE?

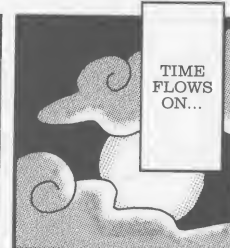


IS THAT ME?

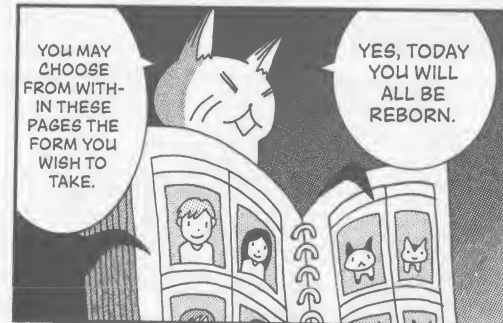
THAT PHOTO ...



わ
WHEEE!



TIME FLOWS ON...



YOU MAY CHOOSE FROM WITH- IN THESE PAGES THE FORM YOU WISH TO TAKE.

YES, TODAY YOU WILL ALL BE REBORN.



HEY, ARE YOU GONNA SHOW US THE CATALOGUE TODAY?



OH, OH! THIS ONE!

I LIKE THAT ONE.

CLAMOR CLAMOR CLAMOR

I WANT THIS ONE!



SHE SEEMS AMAZING... JUST LIKE ME!



OH? AND WHY IS THAT?

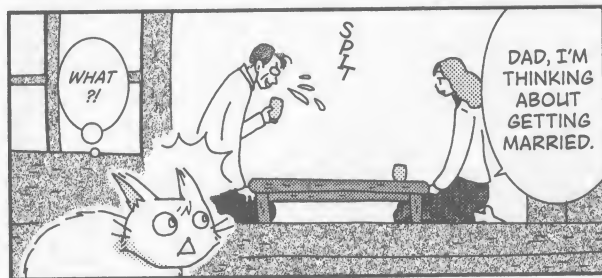
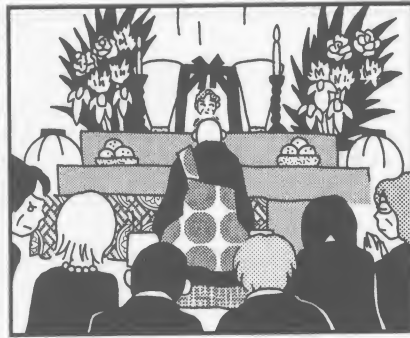
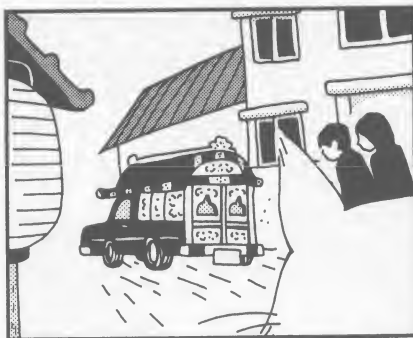
BE-CAUSE ...

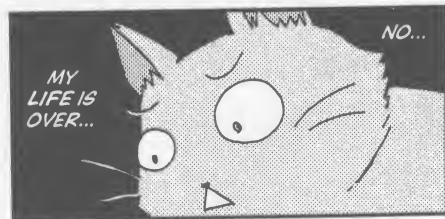
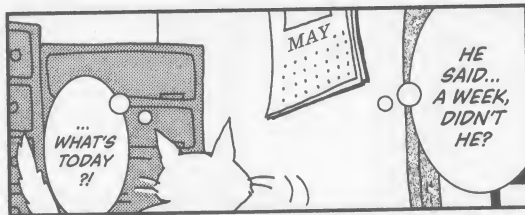
WELL ...



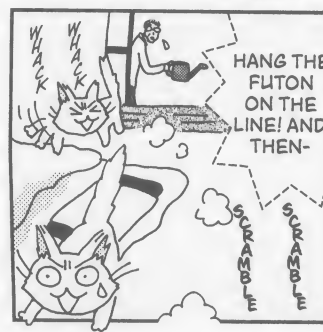
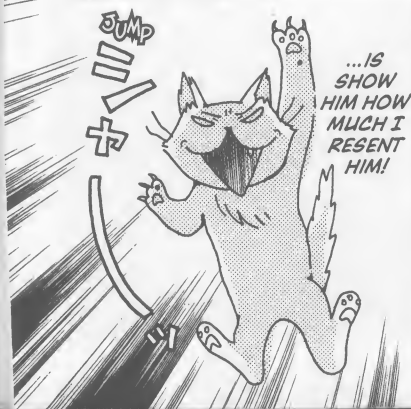
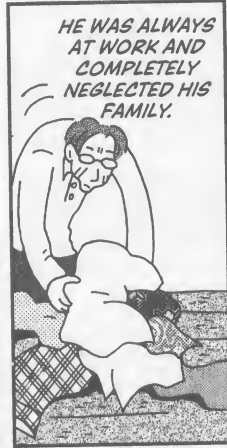
AND I'LL HAVE THIS ONE.

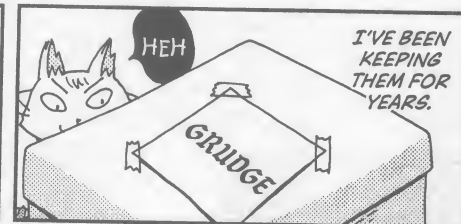
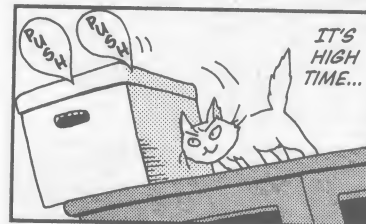
I WANT THAT ONE.





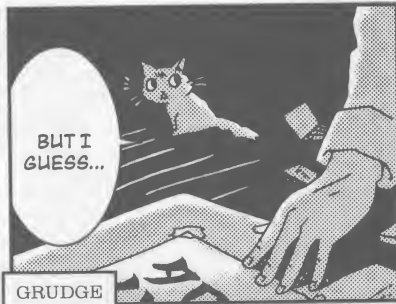
STAGGER







...THEY REALLY DID BOTHER HER...



BUT I GUESS...

GRUDGE



I THINK IT WAS HARD FOR KAORU-SAN, TOO.



...TO WATCH THE PEOPLE I LOVE MIS-UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.

IT WAS ALWAYS HARD FOR ME...



LOOSE...

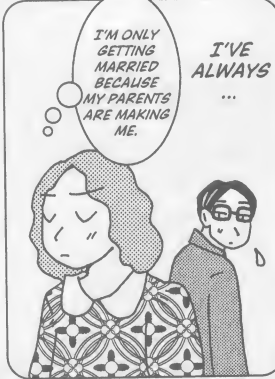


...BLAMED OTHERS FOR MY OWN UNHAPPINESS.

I WISH I'D BEEN BORN WHEN WOMEN COULD WORK OUTSIDE THE HOME.

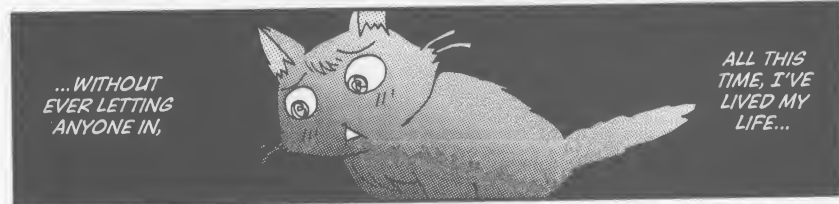


I CAN'T GET A DIVORCE FOR KAORU'S SAKE.



I'M ONLY GETTING MARRIED BECAUSE MY PARENTS ARE MAKING ME.

I'VE ALWAYS ...



...WITHOUT EVER LETTING ANYONE IN,

ALL THIS TIME, I'VE LIVED MY LIFE...



I KNOW I'VE TOLD YOU THIS STORY SO MANY TIMES ALREADY.



...IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.



WE WERE AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE, BUT FOR ME...



AFTER OUR WEDDING, I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO TALK TO HER.

I ALWAYS FELT LIKE I DIDN'T DESERVE HER.

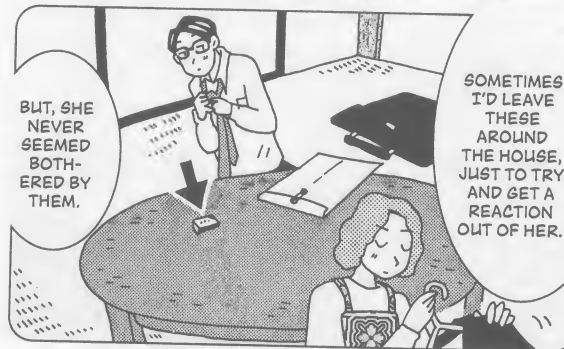


IT WAS SO HARD KNOWING THAT SHE DIDN'T REALLY LOVE ME.



BUT THE MORE TIME I SPENT AWAY FROM HOME, THE MORE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US GREW.

I WORKED LONG HOURS TO TRY AND DO MY BEST FOR HER.

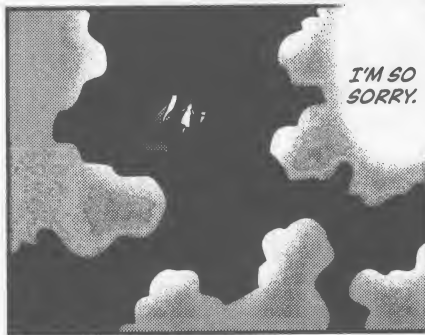


BUT, SHE NEVER SEEMED BOTHERED BY THEM.

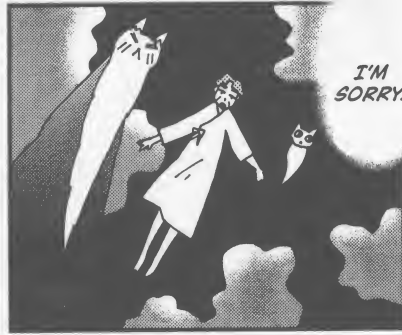
SOMETIMES I'D LEAVE THESE AROUND THE HOUSE, JUST TO TRY AND GET A REACTION OUT OF HER.



ALL THIS TIME... HE KNEW.



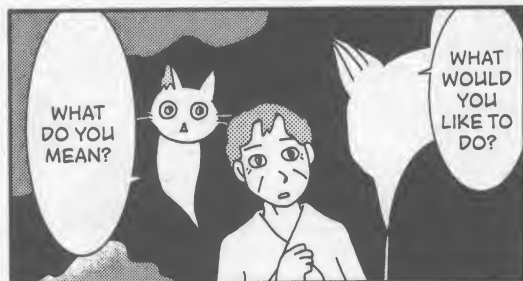
I'M SO SORRY.



I'M SORRY.



SO...



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?



YOUR GRAND-CHILD IS DUE TO BE BORN SOON.



YES!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REBORN?



NEVER EVEN FACING MY OWN FEELINGS.



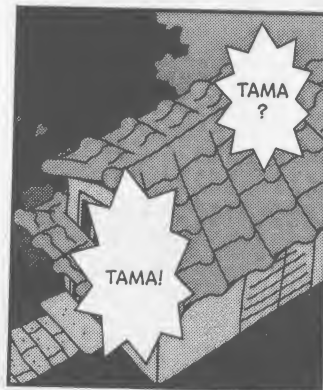
NEVER TELLING ANYONE WHAT I WAS FEELING.



WE COULD HAVE--



IF ONLY I COULD HAVE MY TIME BACK...



TAMA ?

TAMA!



TAMA?



IT'S TIME.

失敗と成長

CHAPTER 4
LEARNING FROM MISTAKES



SOON I'LL
BE ABLE TO
SLEEP AS
MUCH AS I
LIKE.



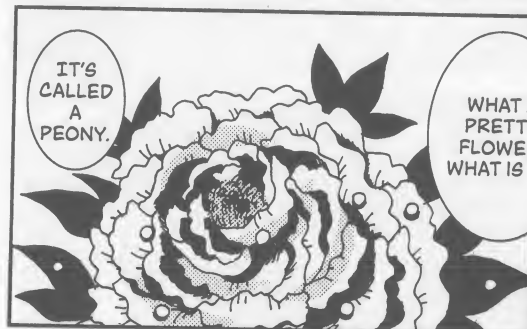
THEY'RE
JUST PARK-
ING THE
CAR.
THEY SAID
THEY'D
BE JUST A
MINUTE.

WHERE
ARE YOUR
MOM AND
DAD?



YOU
MADE IT!

HI,
GRANDPA!



IT'S
CALLED
A
PEONY.

WHAT A
PRETTY
FLOWER!
WHAT IS IT?



WELL, I
LOVE YOU,
GRANDPA!

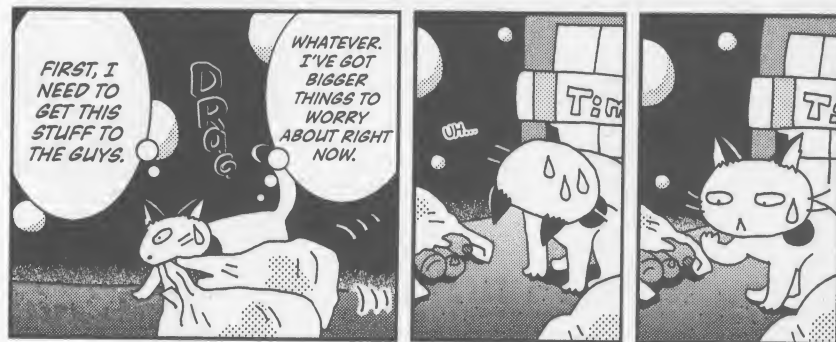
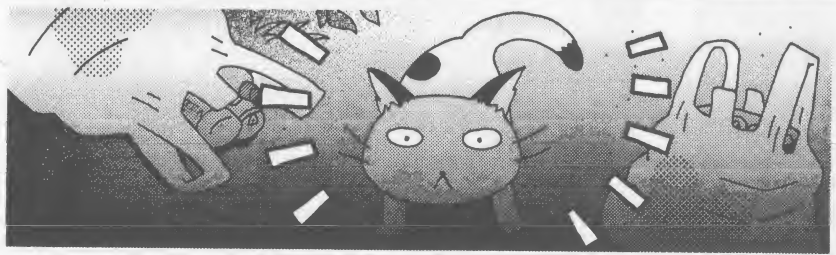
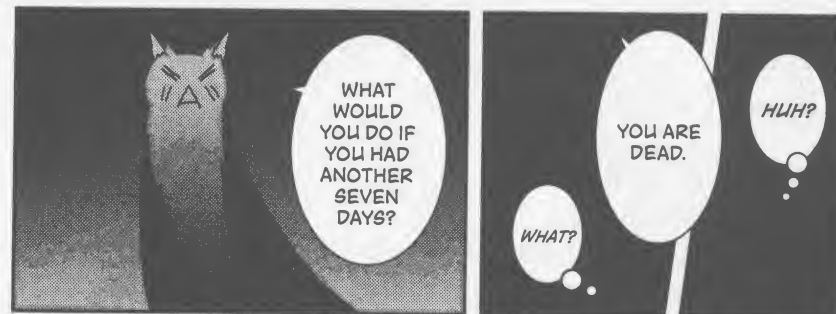


DID SHE
LOVE
YOU,
TOO?

SO,
GRANDMA
LOVED
FLOWERS?
WHAT
ABOUT YOU,
GRANDPA?



YOUR
GRANDMA
USED
TO LOVE
PEONIES.







HA HA HA HA

THE CAT'S ADVENTURE



OB-
STACLE?!
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

YET, YOU
STILL HAVEN'T
BEEN ABLE TO
OVERCOME
YOUR FIRST
OBSTACLE.



BUT... IT
WASN'T
SUPPOSED
TO BE A
COMEDY...



THAT
WAS SO
FUNNY!

MY
STOMACH
HURTS
FROM
LAUGHING!

HEE
HEE

SERIOUSLY?
YOU WROTE
THIS? IT'S
HILARIOUS!

THE CAT'S ADVENTURE



I'LL
NEVER
WRITE
AGAIN.

THAT
WAS A
HOOT!

THE CAT'S
ADVENTURE



HA HA HA HA HA



I AM
A GOD,
YOU
KNOW.

OH
HO HO

WAIT,
YOU
READ
IT?!



THEY
WERE
RIGHT!
IT WAS
QUITE
FUNNY.

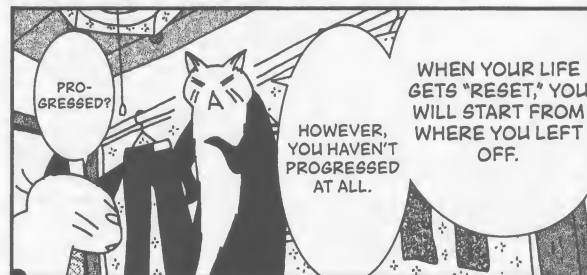


OH?



...I
REALLY
DON'T
HAVE
ANY.

ACTU-
ALLY
...



PRO-
GRESSSED?

HOWEVER,
YOU HAVEN'T
PROGRESSSED
AT ALL.

WHEN YOUR LIFE
GETS "RESET," YOU
WILL START FROM
WHERE YOU LEFT
OFF.

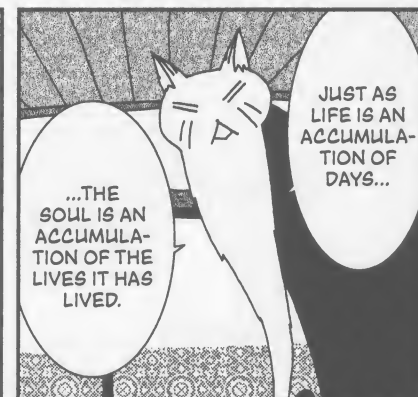


I MUST
WARN
YOU...



I THINK I'LL
REPLAY IT.

IT GROWS AND
PROGRESSES,
UNTIL FINALLY IT
CAN BECOME A
GOD LIKE ME.



...THE
SOUL IS AN
ACCUMULA-
TION OF THE
LIVES IT HAS
LIVED.

JUST AS
LIFE IS AN
ACCUMULA-
TION OF
DAYS...



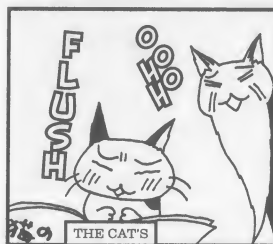
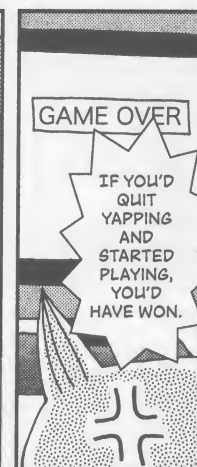
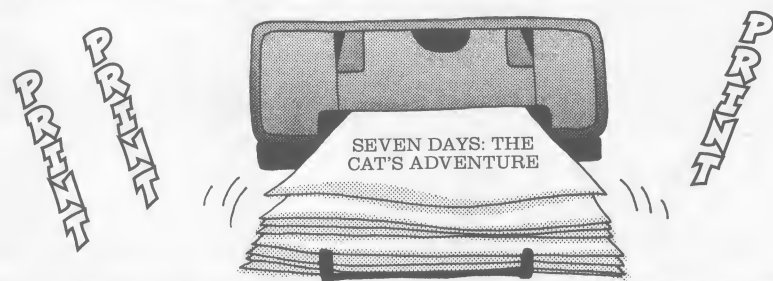
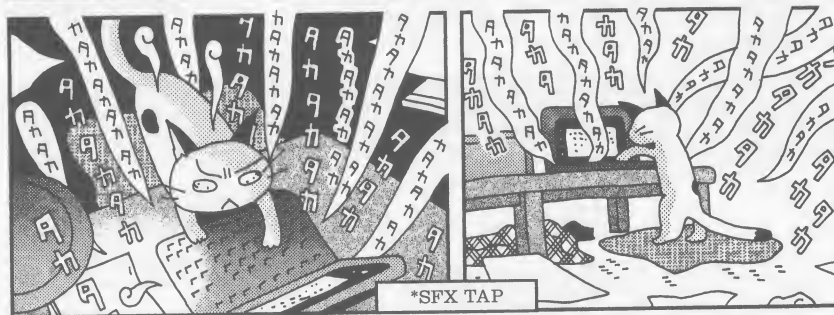
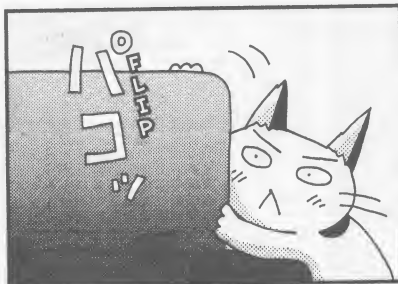
PLUS, I
WORKED
NIGHT AND
DAY TO GIVE
PLAYERS A
GREAT GAME
SERIES!

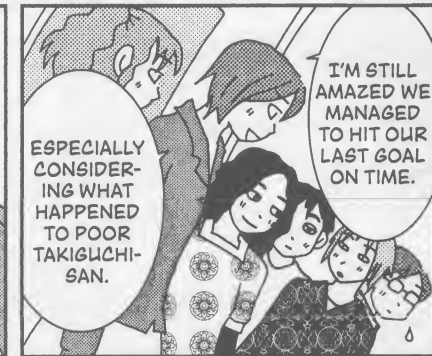
YOU *JUST*
SAID THAT
MY WORK
HAS SAVED
TONS OF
CATS!



BUT,
THAT'S
RIDICU-
LOUS!

BUT A SOUL
LIKE YOURS
THAT HASN'T
ENDURED ANY
TRIALS WILL
NOT PROG-
RESS.

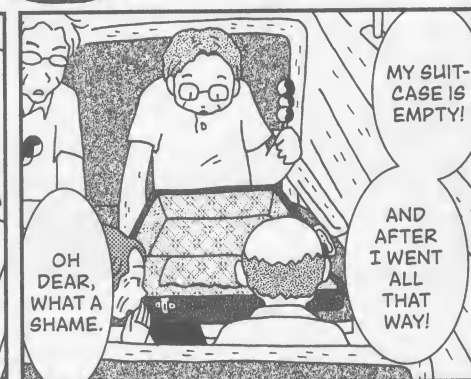
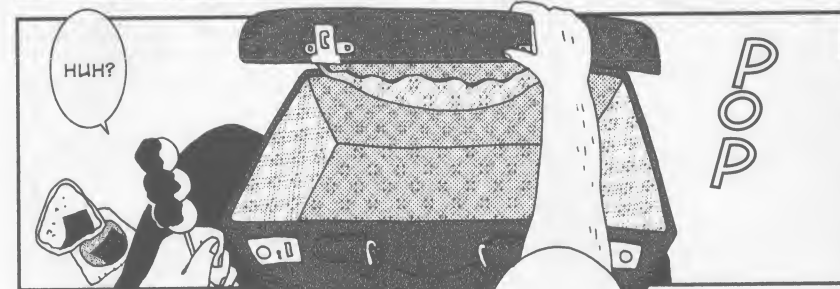
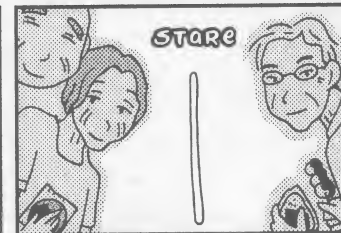
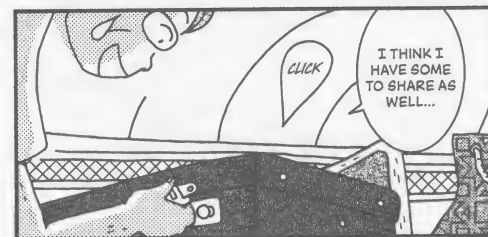
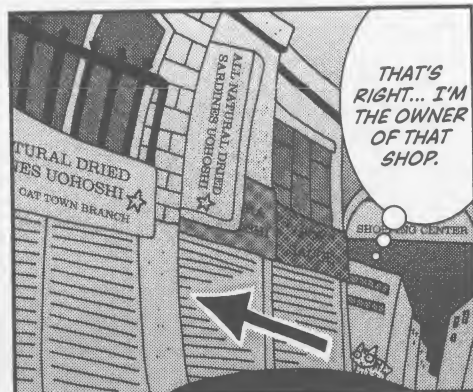
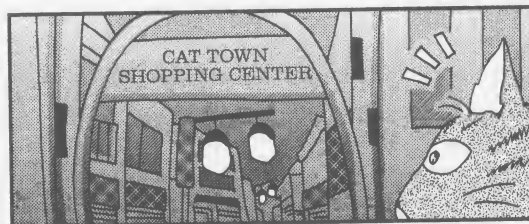
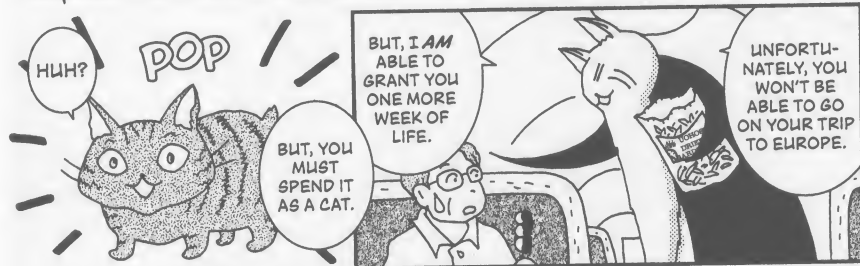
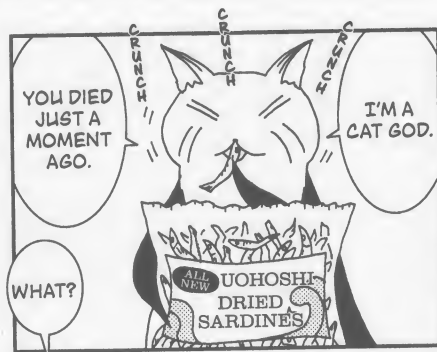


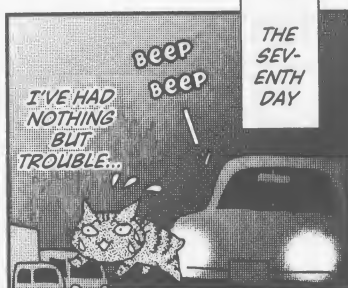


旅の目的

CHAPTER 5 THE FINAL
DESTINATION







I'VE HAD NOTHING BUT TROUBLE...

beep beep

THE SEVENTH DAY



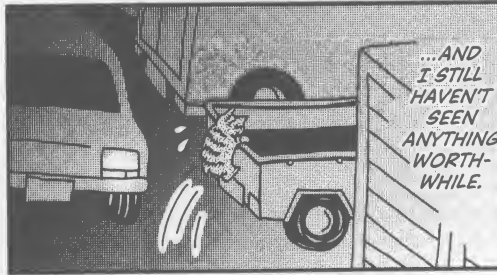
HEY!



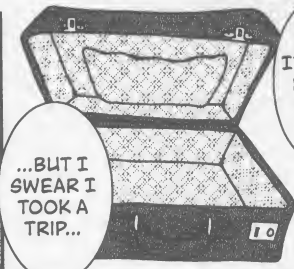
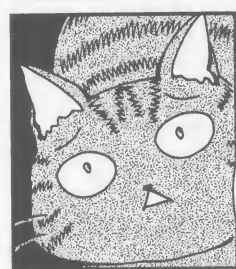
MOOOOOO



COLLAPSE
はたてり

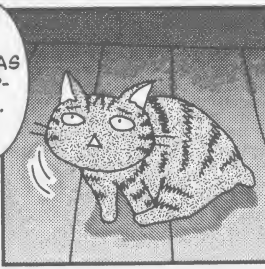


...AND I STILL HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING WORTH-WHILE.



IT WAS EMPTY...

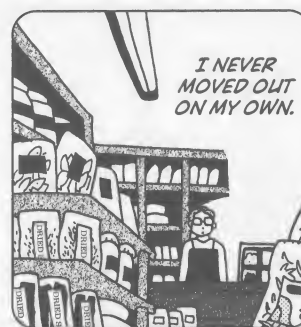
...BUT I SWEAR I TOOK A TRIP...



BUT, I DON'T KNOW WHERE I WAS TRYING TO GO...



IN A WAY, I GUESS LIFE IS LIKE A JOURNEY...



I NEVER MOVED OUT ON MY OWN.



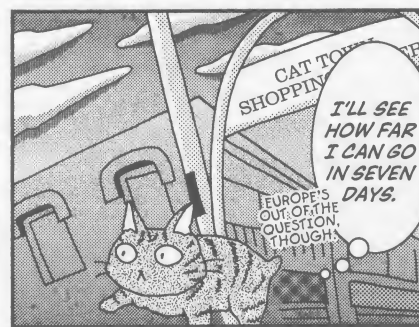
YOU'LL DO IT?

YES.

MY FATHER MADE ME TAKE OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS.



WHAT A BORING LIFE I'VE LED.



I'LL SEE HOW FAR I CAN GO IN SEVEN DAYS.

CAT TOWN SHOPPING



...I'LL TAKE A TRIP.

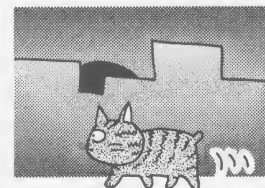
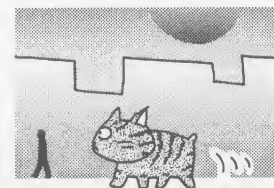
I THINK...



STOP



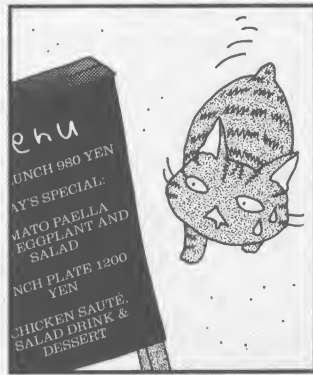
FUTURE



SHOO!



GO ON!



e hu

LUNCH 980 YEN

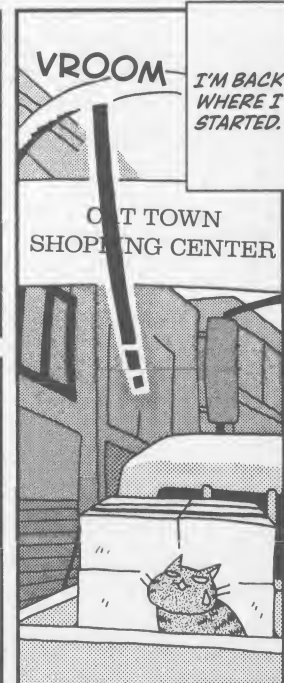
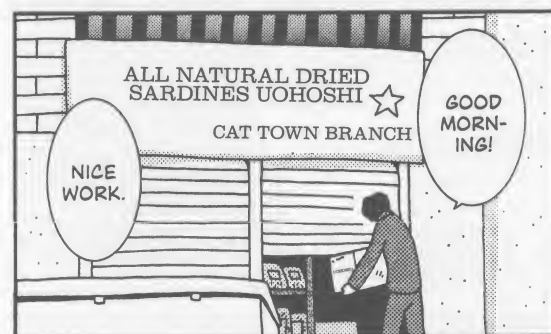
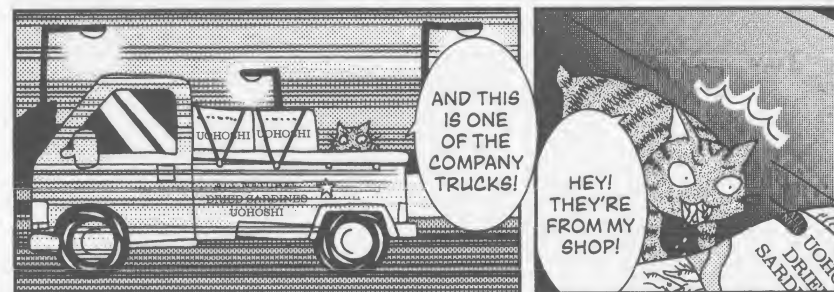
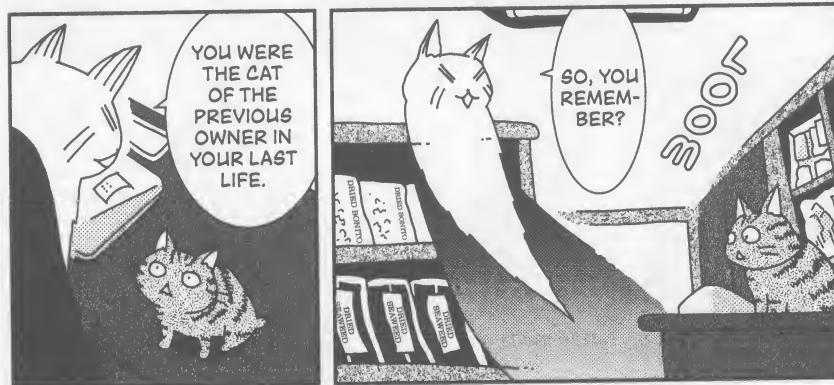
AY'S SPECIAL:

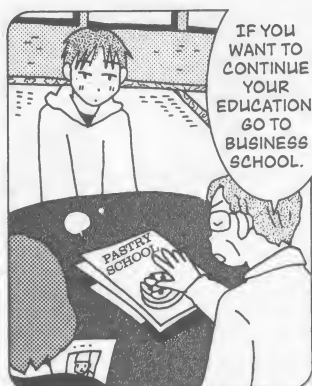
MATO PAELLA

EGGPLANT AND SALAD

LUNCH PLATE 1200 YEN

CHICKEN SAUTE, SALAD DRINK & DESSERT





IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION, GO TO BUSINESS SCHOOL.



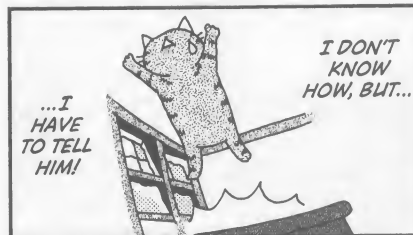
YOU THINK UOHOSHI SHOULD START MAKING PASTRIES?

I DID THE SAME THING TO HIM THAT MY FATHER DID TO ME!



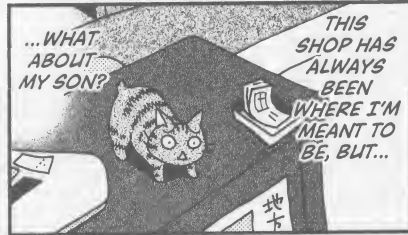
THESE DRIED SARDINES ARE THE BEST!

MY SON!



...I HAVE TO TELL HIM!

I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT...



...WHAT ABOUT MY SON?

THIS SHOP HAS ALWAYS BEEN WHERE I'M MEANT TO BE, BUT...



GYAAAH!

DON'T THROW OUT THOSE PAPERS!

ばーん



DROP

THAT'S WHERE I PUT THE WINNING TICKET!

SNAP



SURE.

THESE ARE THE PAPERS FOR THAT LOTTERY, RIGHT? I'M GOING TO THROW 'EM OUT.



HEY, YOU HUNGRY?

HERE!



I LOVED THIS SHOP...



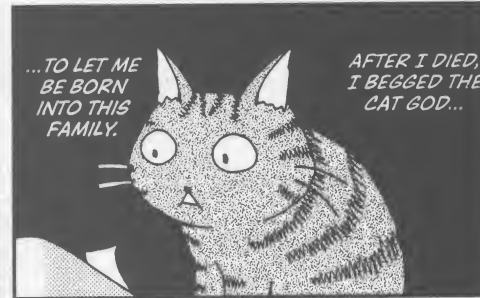
I LOVED THE DRIED FISH...



ARE YOU A STRAY? HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE AT THE SHOP?



SUCH A SHAME, AFTER I GRANTED YOUR WISH AND EVERYTHING ...



...TO LET ME BE BORN INTO THIS FAMILY.

AFTER I DIED, I BEGGED THE CAT GOD...

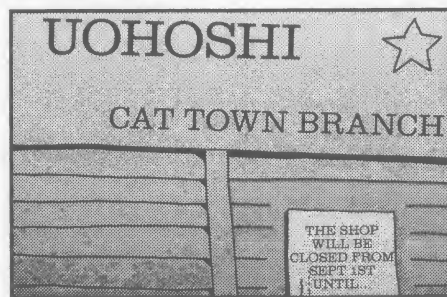
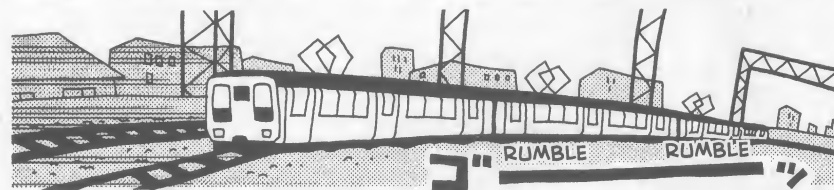
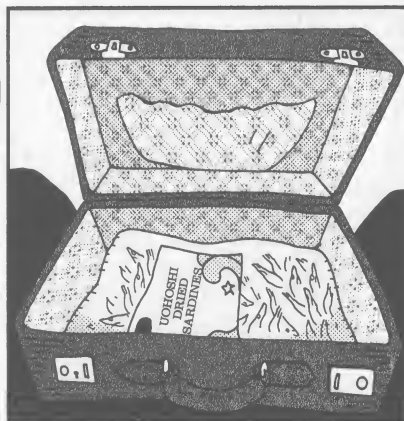


IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT THEY CRACK UNDER THE PRESSURE.

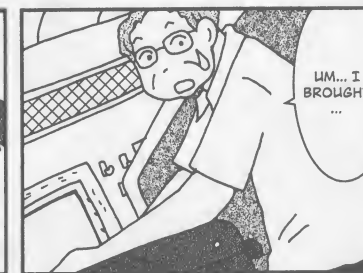
WHEN PARENTS PUSH CHILDREN TOO HARD ...



BUT, I KNOW THAT YOUR FATHER WAS A VERY HIGH-HANDLED MAN.



CHUG
CHUG
CHUG



閉じ込めた心

CHAPTER 6 HIDDEN HEART

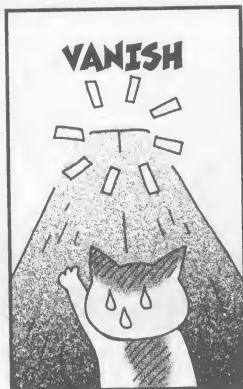




WAIT,
BUT WHY
AS A
CAT?



NOW YOU
MAY TAKE
CARE OF
UNFINISHED
BUSINESS.



THERE'S
NO WAY I
CAN GET
EVERY-
THING
DONE IN
ONLY A
WEEK!

SOOZE

I'VE
ONLY
GOT
SEVEN
DAYS? BUT, I'M
SUPER
BUSY!



UNFINISHED
BUSINESS,
HUH...?

THE OPERA!
MY NEW
OUTFIT!



AND WHAT
ABOUT
MY
DIET?

AND MY
HAIR
APPOINTMENT!

I'VE GOT
MY TEA
CEREMONY
CLASS
TOMORROW!
AND MY
ENGLISH
LESSONS!

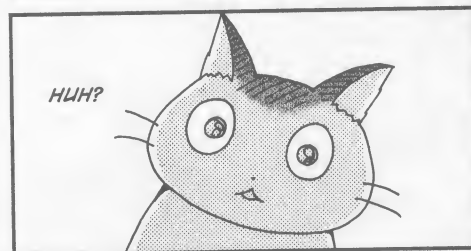


AND SOME
CLOTHES!

DO CATS
EVEN
NEED
SUN
BLOCK?

ANYWAY,
I'VE GOT
TO GET
SOME SUN
BLOCK!

WAIT...



HUH?



WAIT... I
GUESS CATS
DON'T NEED
ANY OF THAT
STUFF.

SO, I
SHOULD
PROBABLY...



SORRY,
I'VE GOT AN
EXPRESS
TRAIN TO
CATCH.



IT'S
GONNA
BE A
BLAST!

CAN YOU
COME
TO THE
AFTER
PARTY?



HUH?

CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP



OH YEAH,
I SHOULD
WEAR THAT
CUTE OUTFIT
I BOUGHT
LAST WEEK.

I'M MEETING
A FRIEND
TOMORROW
FOR A FANCY
HOTEL DINNER
AND NIGHT AT
THE OPERA.



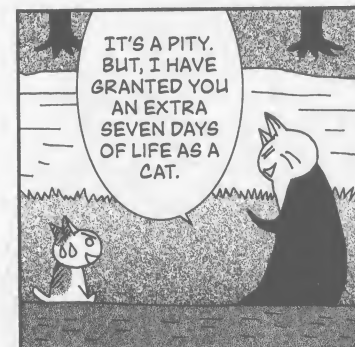
YOU ARE
DEAD.

WASN'T I ON
MY WAY TO THE
WHAT
HAPPENED?



I'M GONNA
GET A
SUN-BURN!

OH MY
GOSH, DID
I FALL
ASLEEP
OUTSIDE?

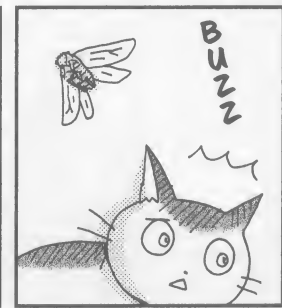
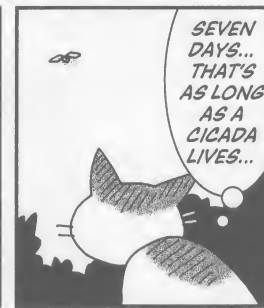
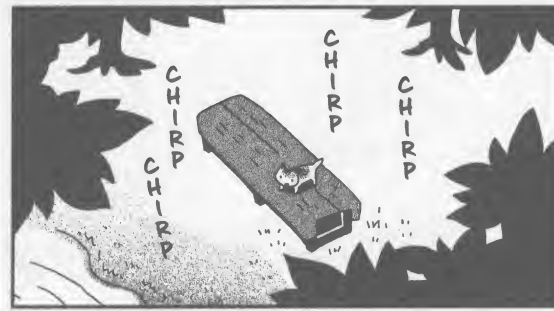
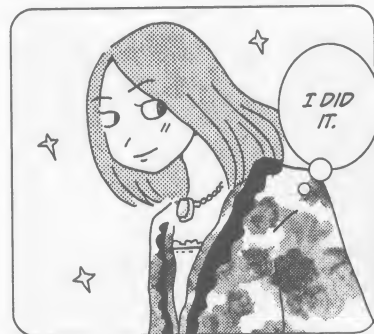
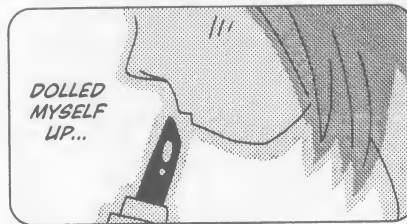


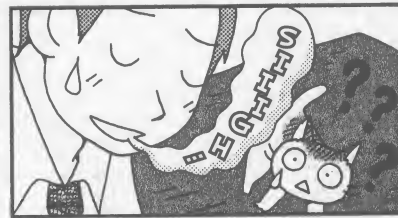
IT'S A PITY.
BUT, I HAVE
GRANTED YOU
AN EXTRA
SEVEN DAYS
OF LIFE AS A
CAT.

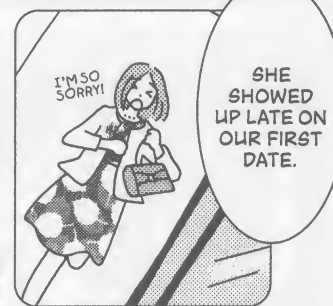
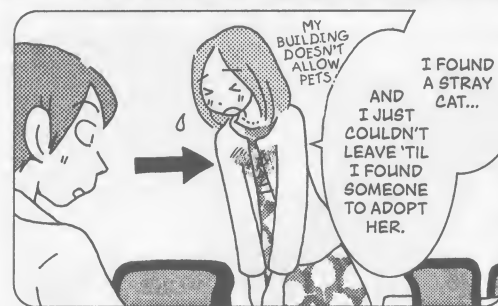
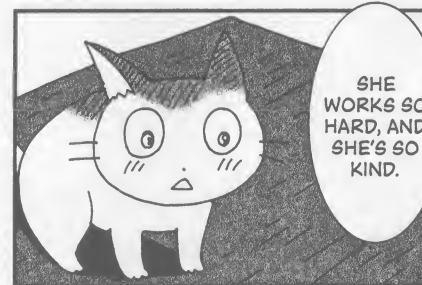
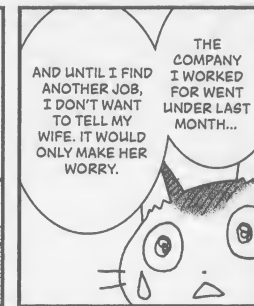
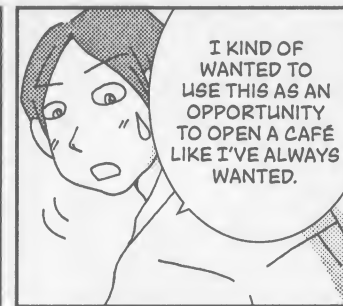
YOU
SHOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
WEARING
4-INCH
HEELS ON A
MOUNTAIN
PATH.

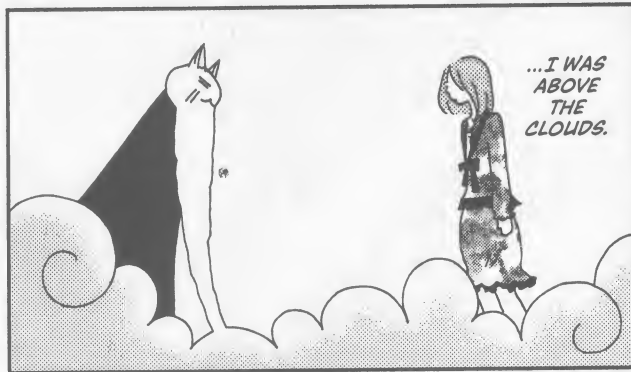


LAST NIGHT
ON YOUR
WAY TO THE
TRAIN, YOU
TOOK A
HARD FALL
ON THIS
TRAIL.





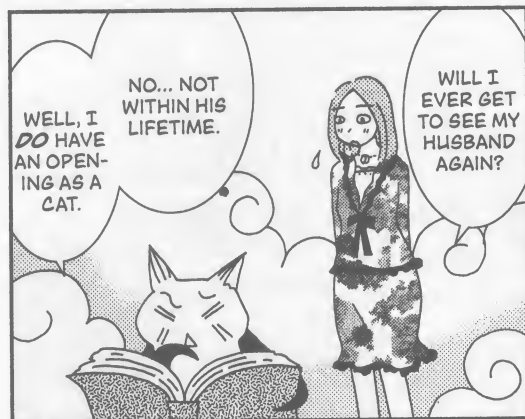




...I WAS
ABOVE
THE
CLOUDS.



WHEN I CAME
TO...



WELL, I
DO HAVE
AN OPEN-
ING AS A
CAT.

NO... NOT
WITHIN HIS
LIFETIME.

WILL I
EVER GET
TO SEE MY
HUSBAND
AGAIN?

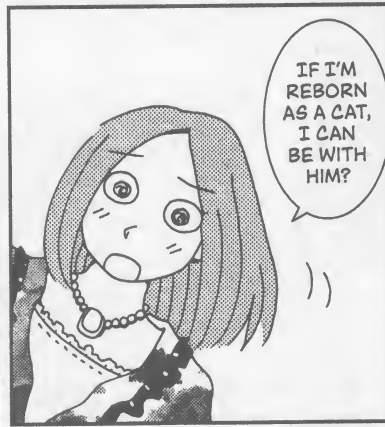


...

DID YOU
TAKE
CARE OF
EVERY-
THING?



IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU
WANT.



IF I'M
REBORN
AS A CAT,
I CAN
BE WITH
HIM?



DO WHAT
MAKES YOU
HAPPY!



GRAB



I'VE
GOTTA
GET TO
A PAY-
PHONE!



FREE BOTH
OF OUR
HEARTS...

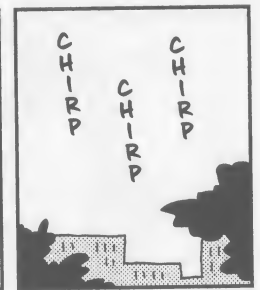
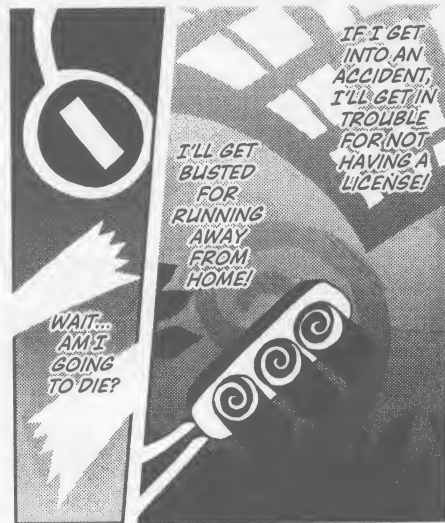


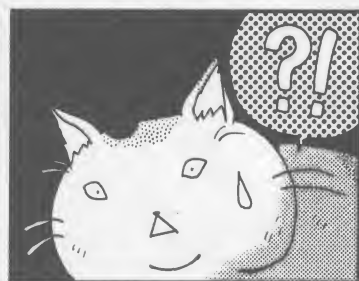
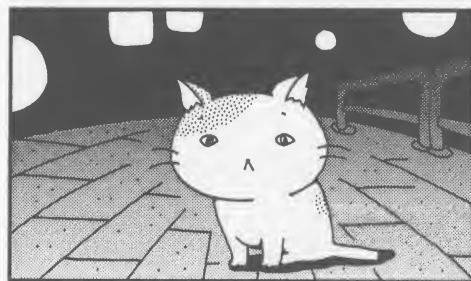
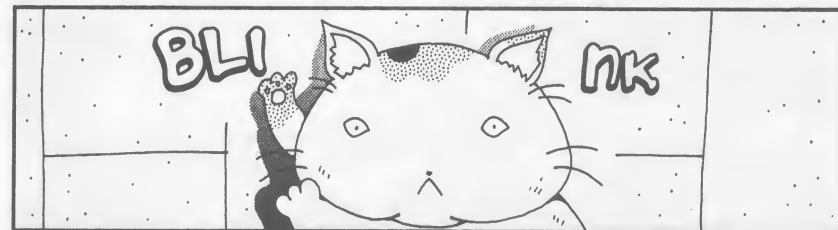
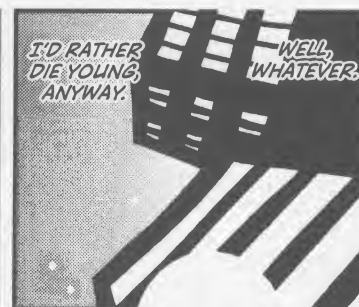
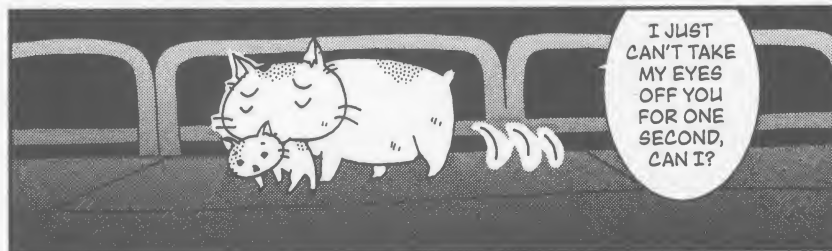
...FROM THE
CAGE THEY'VE
BEEN TRAPPED
IN!

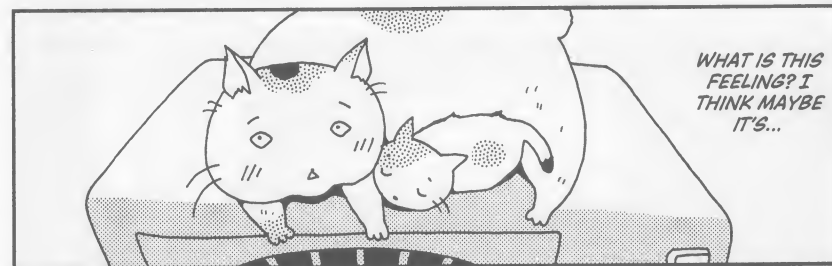
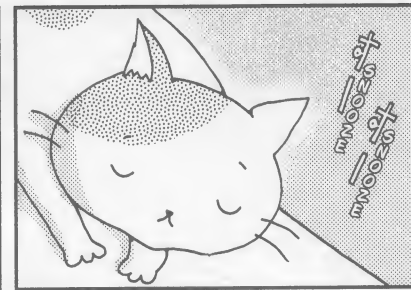
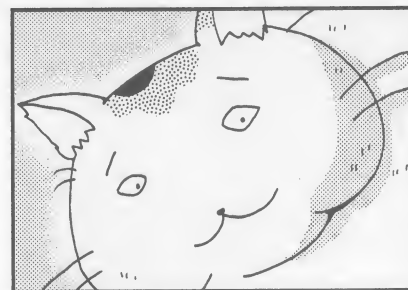
TICK

第7話

命のリレー
CHAPTER 7 PASSING THE TORCH









THIS IS WHY DAD WALKED OUT ON US!



I HATE THIS!

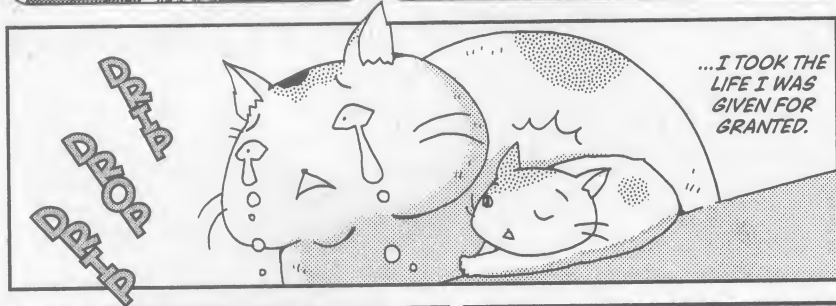
RUMI?



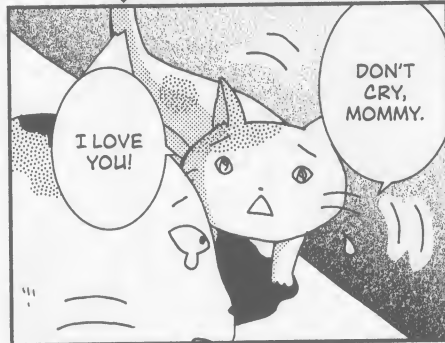
BUT ON TOP OF IT ALL...



SO I RAN AWAY FROM HOME AND CRASHED ON MY FRIEND'S COUCH.



...I TOOK THE LIFE I WAS GIVEN FOR GRANTED.



I LOVE YOU!

DON'T CRY, MOMMY.



MOMMY, WHAT'S WRONG?



ALL RIGHT! TWO FOR ONE BARGAIN!



RUMI, GIVE ME A HAND WITH THE GROCERY SHOPPING.

WE HAD NOTHING, BUT SHE NEVER CARED HOW POOR WE LOOKED.



I HATED MY MOTHER.



HELLO!

DOING SOME SHOPPING?



HI, RUMI-CHAN!



PLEASE



Patisserie Lisa



RUMI?



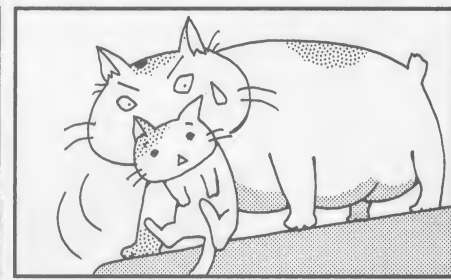
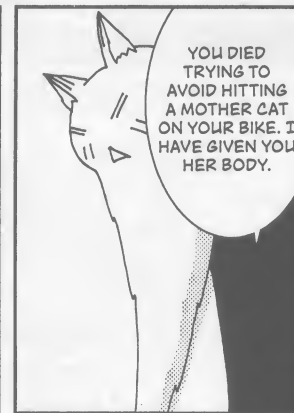
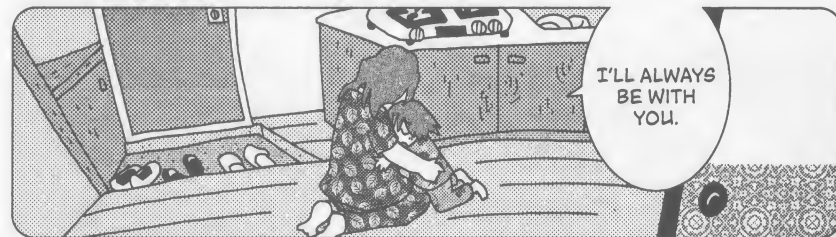
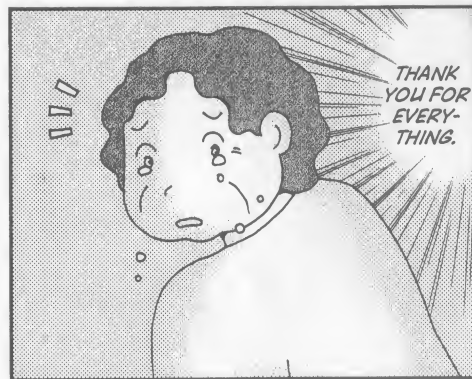
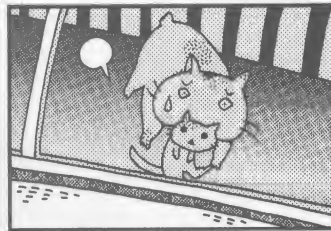
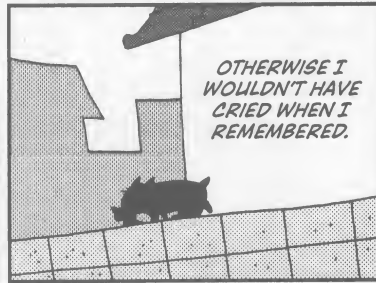
WE'D LOVE TO!

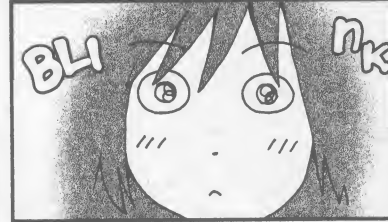
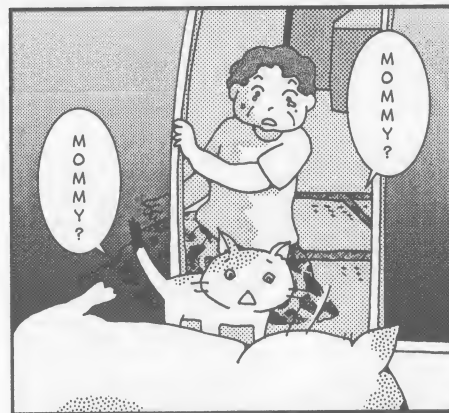
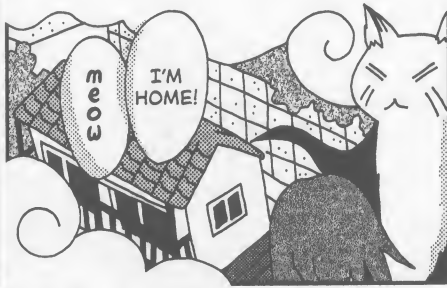


WE JUST PICKED UP SOME CAKES!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME IN FOR A VISIT?

HERE'S OUR HOUSE.





小さな一歩

CHAPTER 8 ONE SMALL STEP



WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO TODAY?

RIGHT, I WAS GONNA GO FOR A WALK.

MY DOCTOR TOLD ME I NEED TO GET MORE EXERCISE.



...AND IT JUST FELT LIKE A CHORE.

I WOKE UP LATE...



OH YEAH, I DECIDED NOT TO BOTHER.

WAIT, IT'S NIGHT ALREADY?



MEOW



I THINK I'D LIKE TO WATCH EVERYONE FROM UP HERE FOR A LITTLE WHILE.



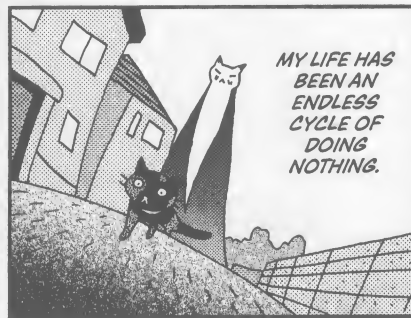
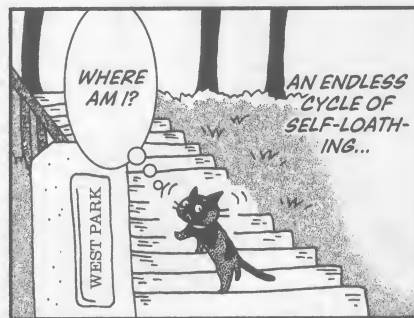
WHOA!

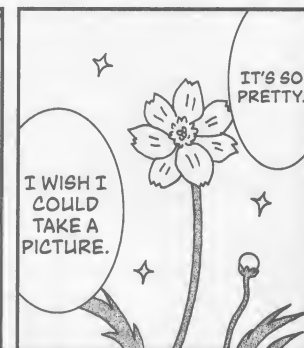
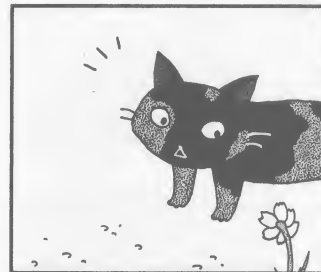
うおおおおお

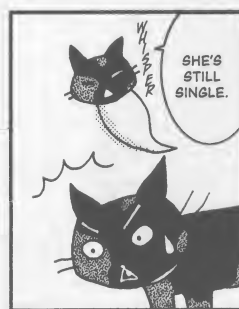
JUST LIKE MY MOM.

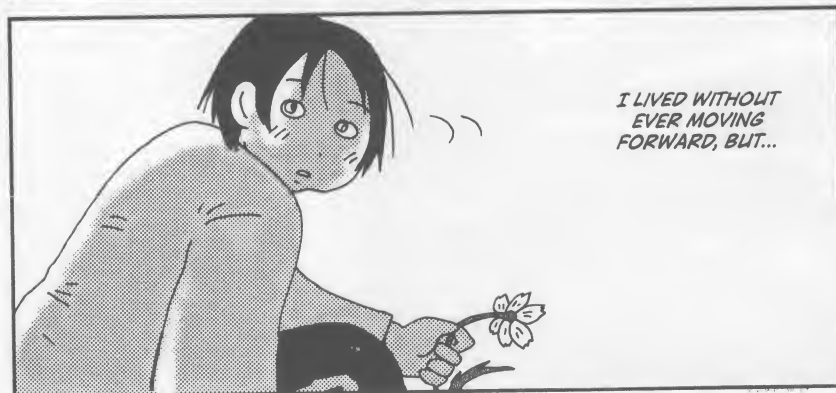


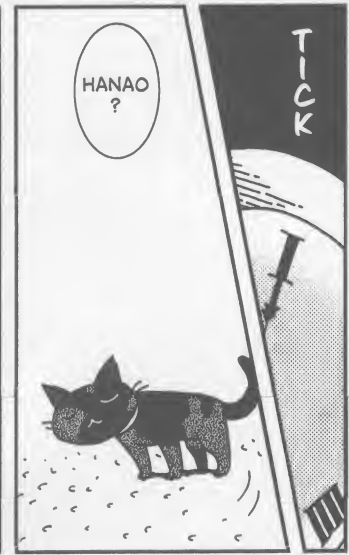
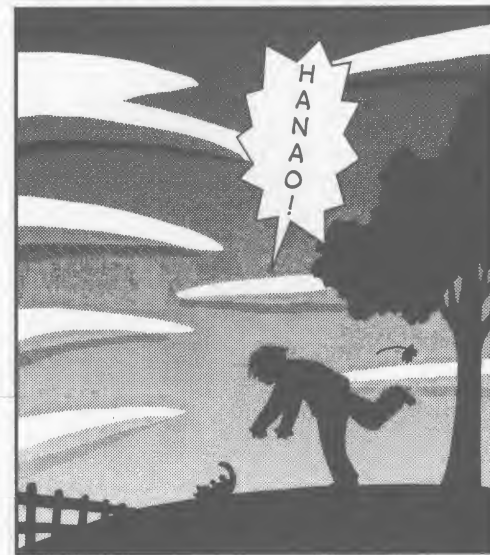
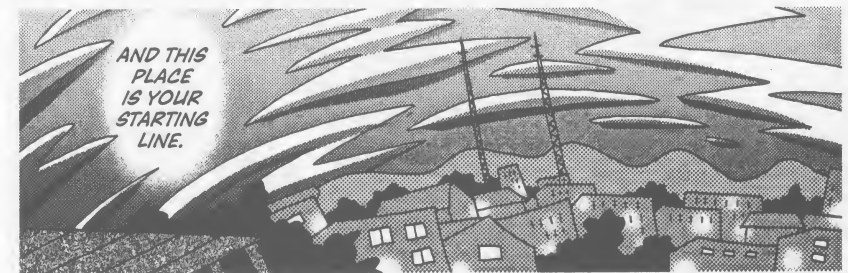
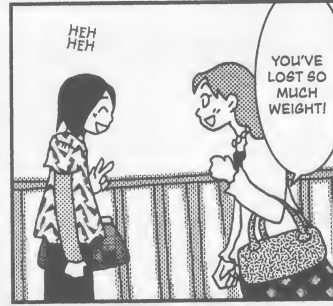
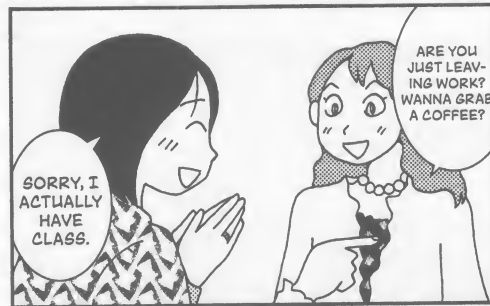
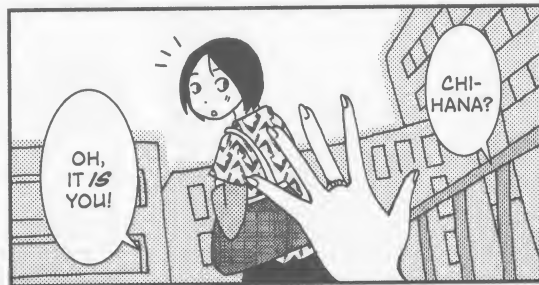
NEXT TIME AROUND, I WANT TO BE A WONDERFUL WOMAN WHEN I GROW UP.

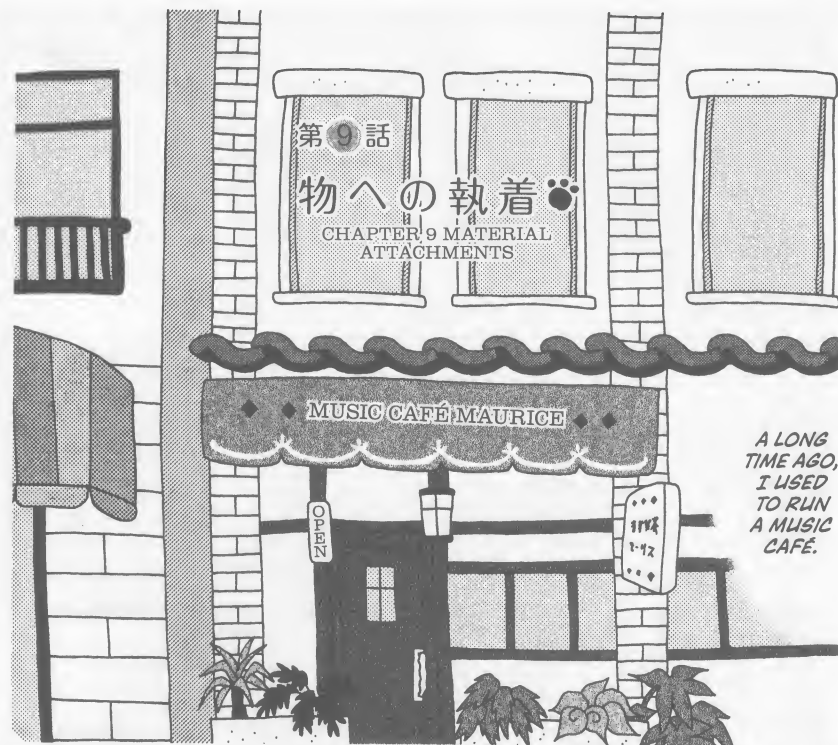












A LONG
TIME AGO,
I USED
TO RUN
A MUSIC
CAFÉ.

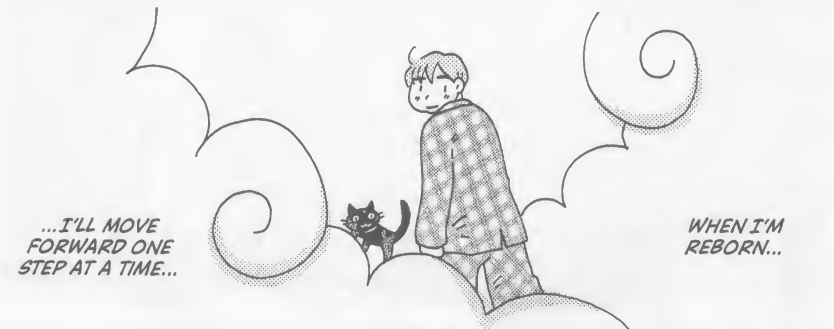


...TO
COME
TOGETHER
AND AP-
PRECIATE
THE ART
FORM.

IT WAS A
GATHERING
PLACE FOR
CLASSICAL
MUSIC
FANS...

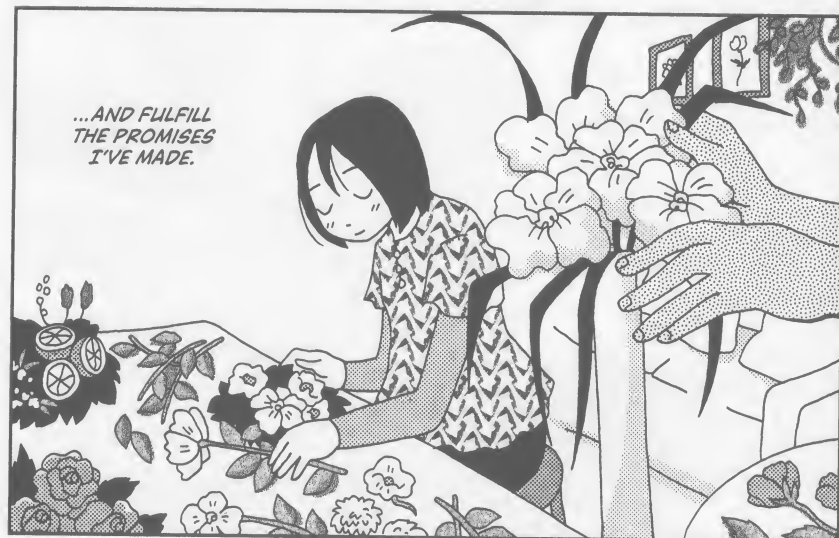


I'LL BE
WATCHING
FROM UP
HERE...
...TO SEE
WHERE YOUR
LIFE TAKES
YOU.

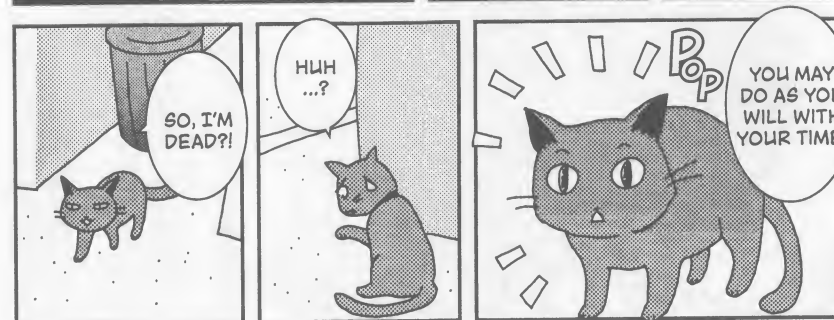
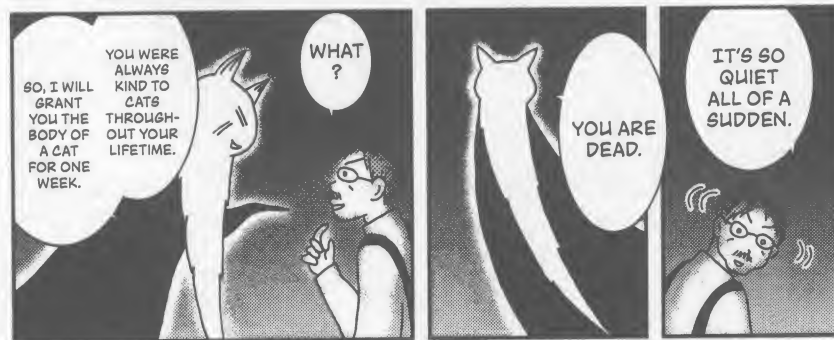
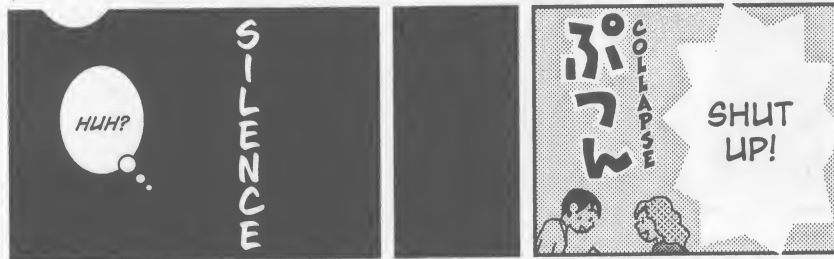


...I'LL MOVE
FORWARD ONE
STEP AT A TIME...

WHEN I'M
REBORN...



...AND FULFILL
THE PROMISES
I'VE MADE.





MAURICE RAVEL'S
"PAVANE POUR
UNE ENFANTE
DEFUNTE"?

I-IS
THAT
SUP-
POSED
TO BE...



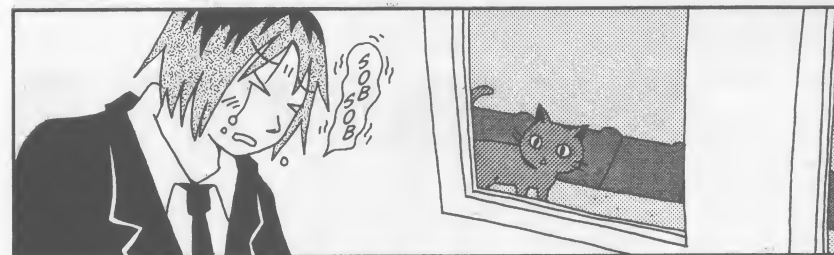
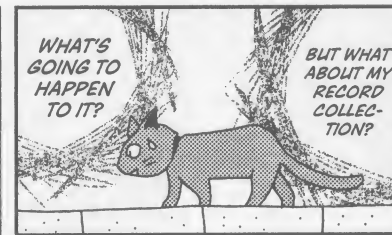
BUT...

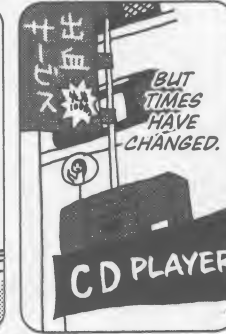
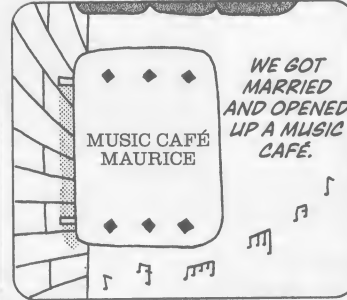
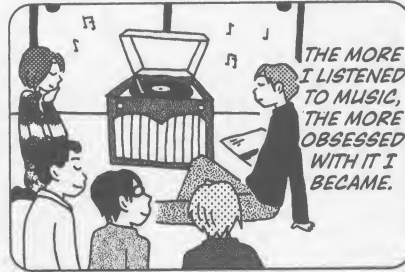
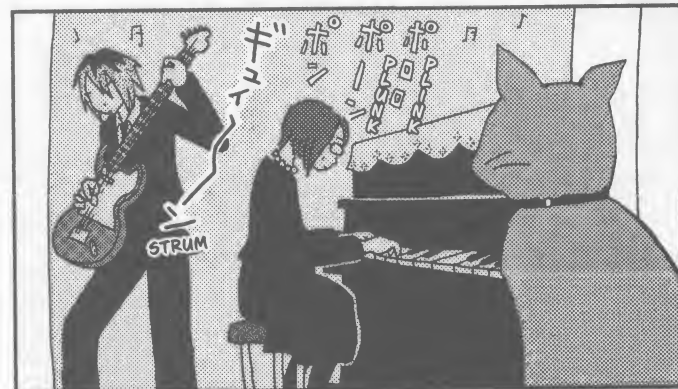


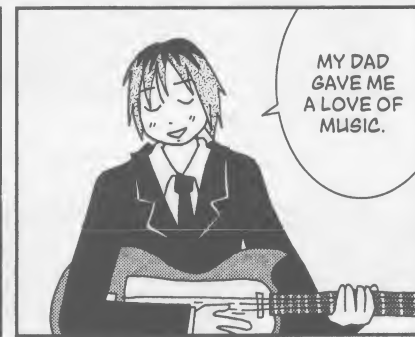
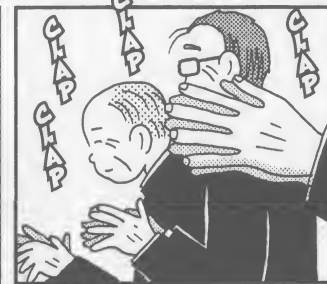
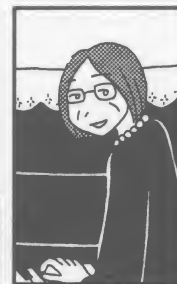
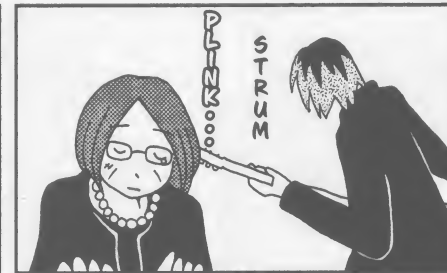
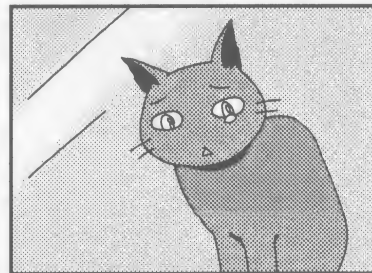
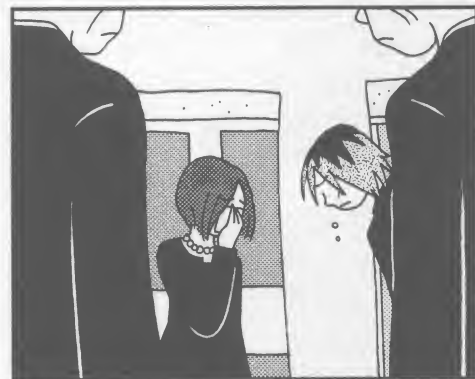
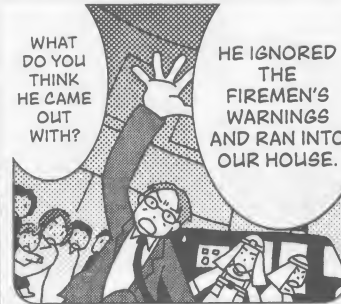
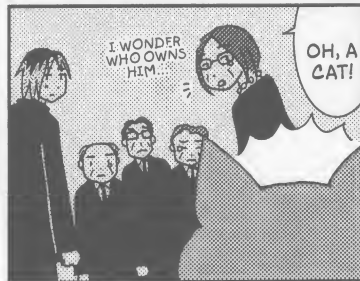
THAT'S
PRETTY
MUCH
ALL YOU
SPEND
YOUR
MONEY
ON.



I USED TO
PLAY THE
PIANO...









FOR A WEEK I LISTENED AND LISTENED.



WELL, WE'D BETTER GET STARTED THEN.

IT WOULD TAKE A WHOLE WEEK TO LISTEN TO ALL OF DAD'S COLLECTION.



IS THE RELEASE OF THE SELF...



DEATH...



JUST AS RECORDS ARE, THE RELEASE OF SOUND INTO THE AIR...

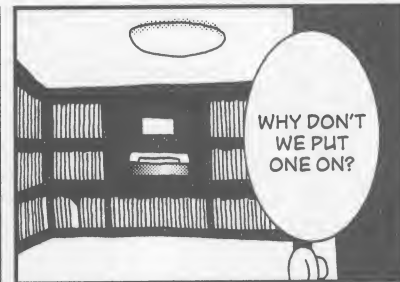


AND BECOMING ONE WITH THE SKY...

STRETCHING ETERNALLY OUT INTO THE BEYOND...



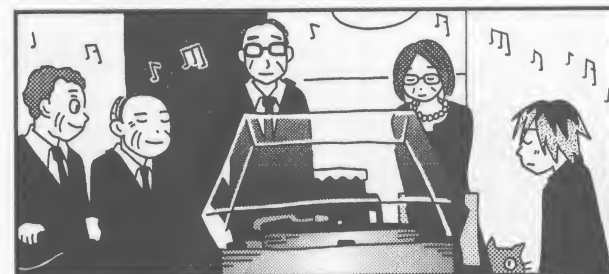
AHH, THIS TAKES ME BACK.



WHY DON'T WE PUT ONE ON?



HE *DOES* HAVE AN AMAZING COLLECTION.



IT REMINDS ME OF WHEN I JUST USED TO LISTEN TO LISTEN AND ENJOY.



HA HA HA

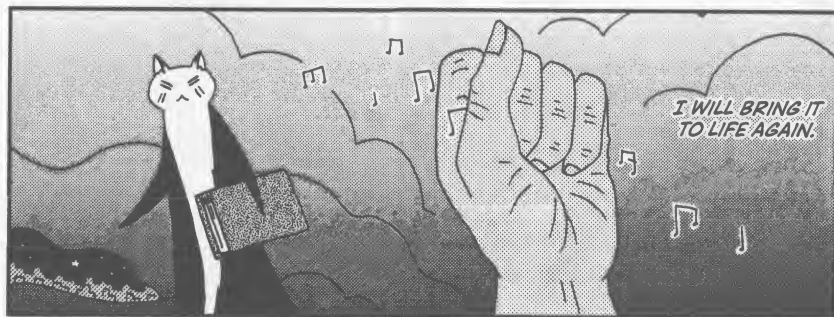
I STILL SAY RECORDS SOUND BETTER, EVEN IF THEY DO SKIP SOMETIMES.

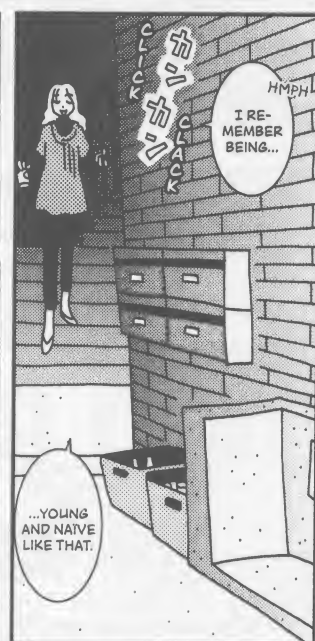
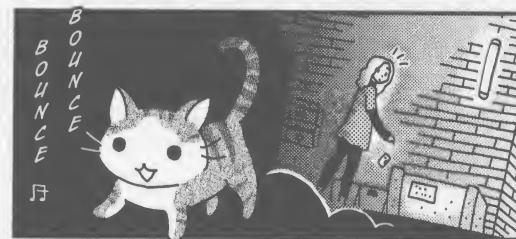
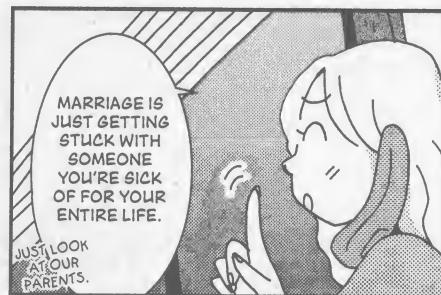
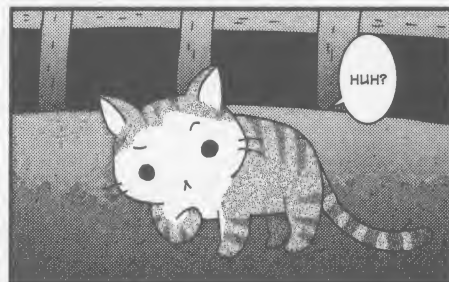
HOW NOSTALGIC...

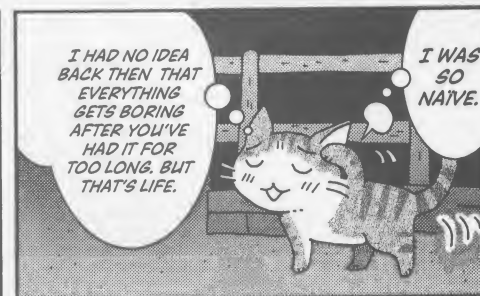
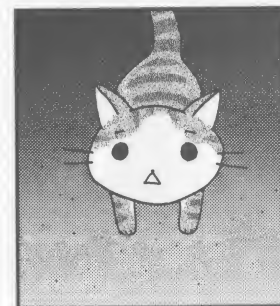
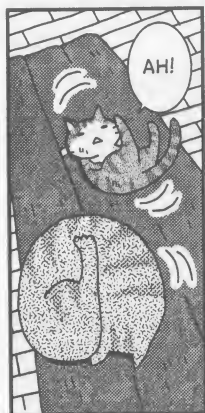
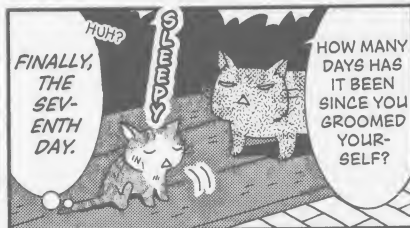
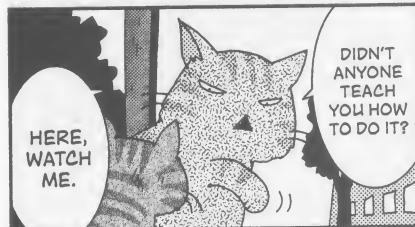
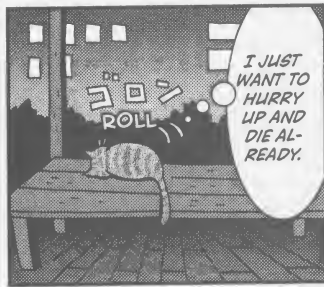


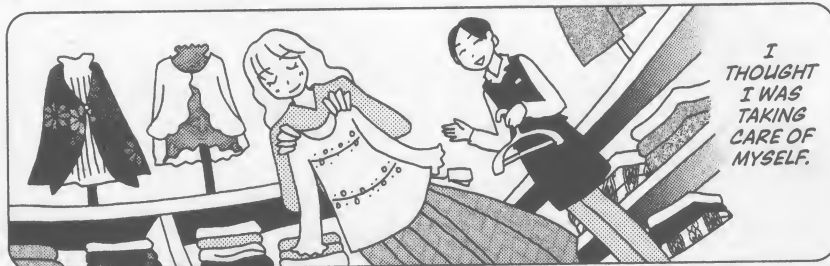
OH, IT SKIPPED.

感謝の心
CHAPTER 10 HEART OF
GRATITUDE





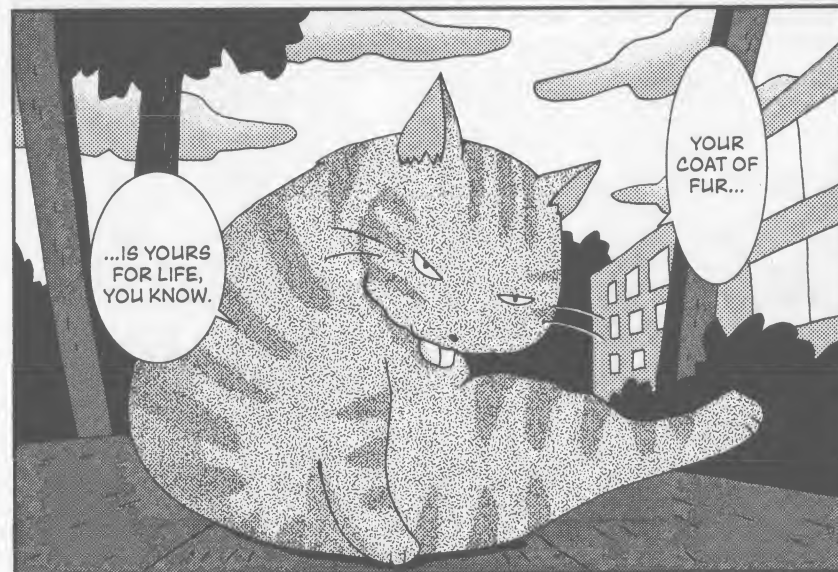
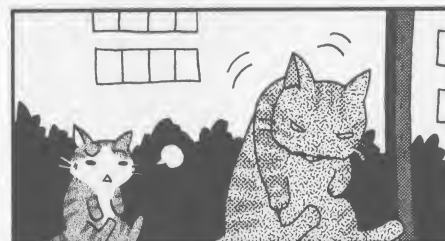


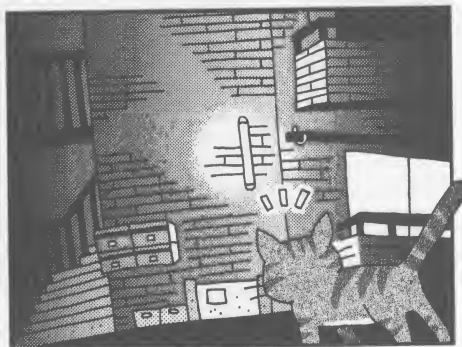


BUT, ARE YOU SURE THAT'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY, SIS?



BUT, THINGS LOSE THEIR APPEAL FOR ME SO QUICKLY BECAUSE I DON'T TAKE CARE OF THEM.





I WAS
SO
NAIVE.



THANK
YOU.

TO THE
PEO-
PLE
IN MY
LIFE...

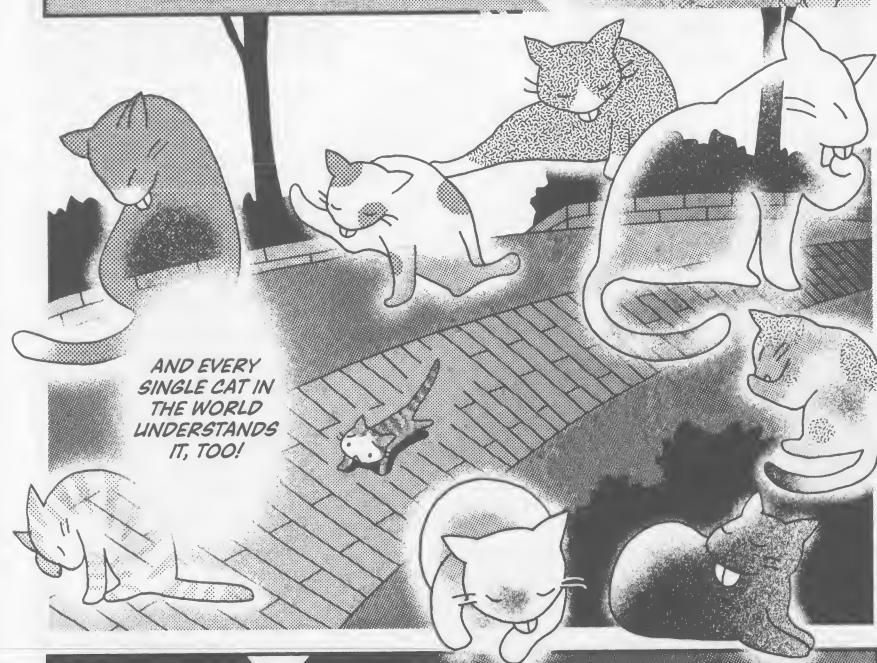
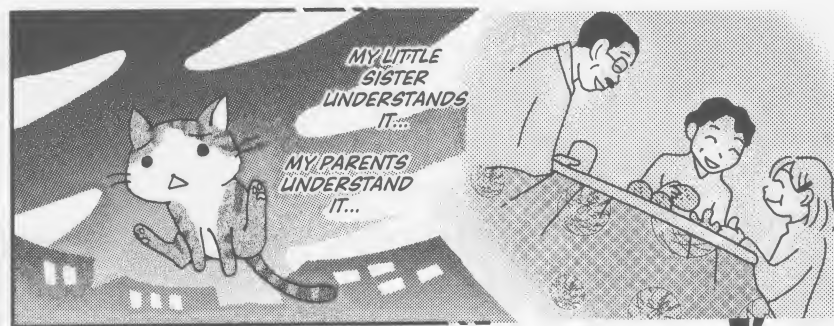


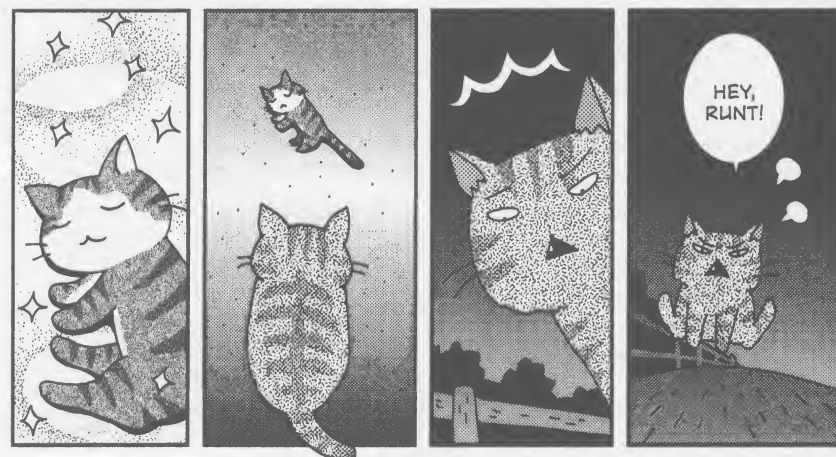
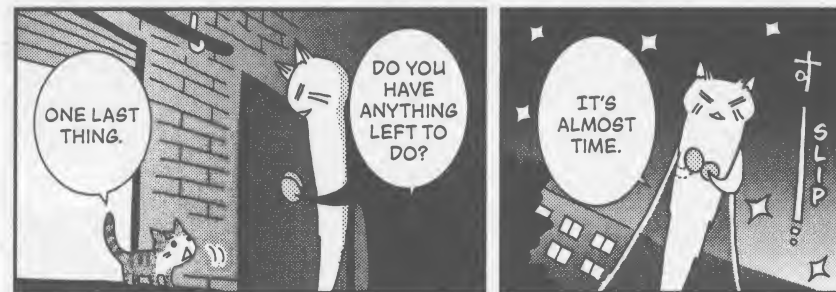
THANK
YOU.

TO THE
THINGS I
OWNED...



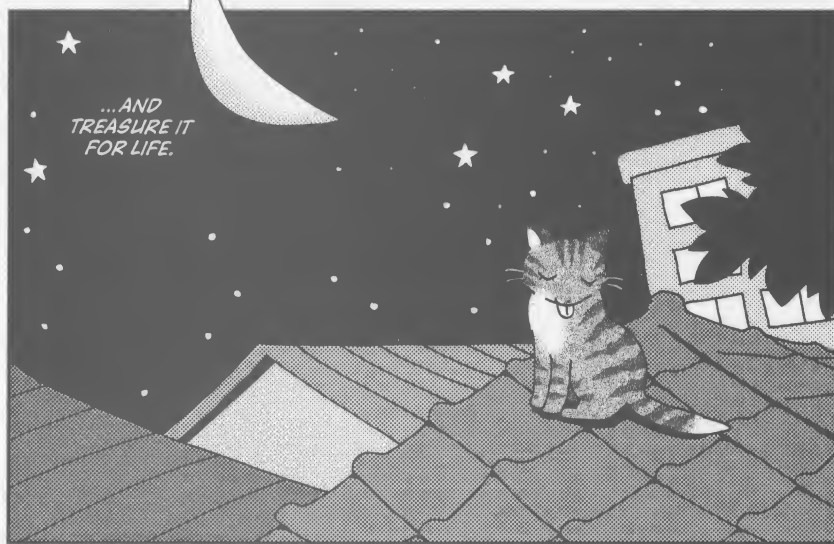
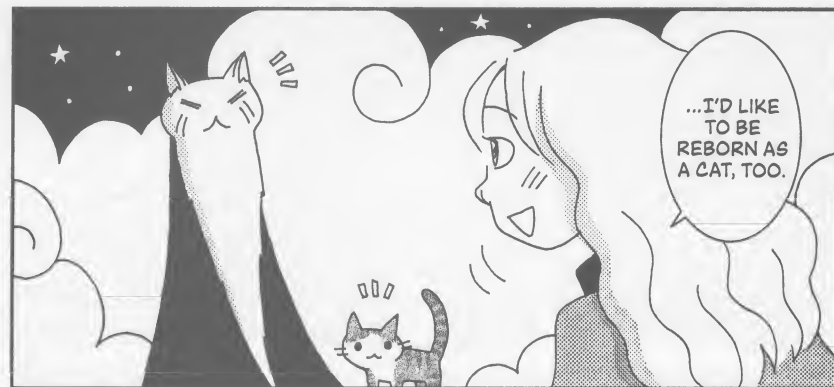
BUT...

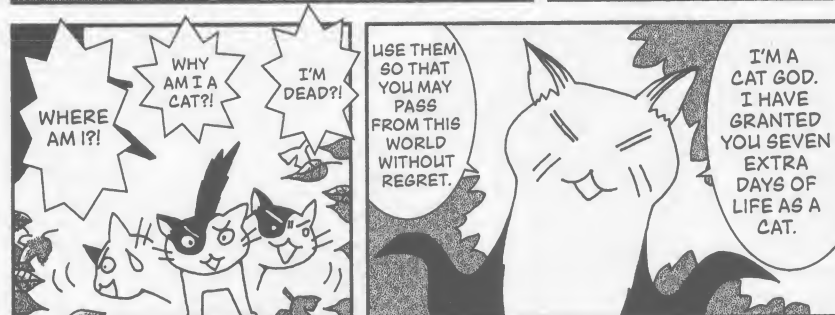


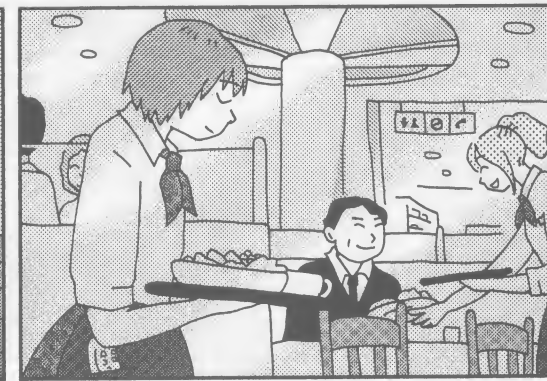
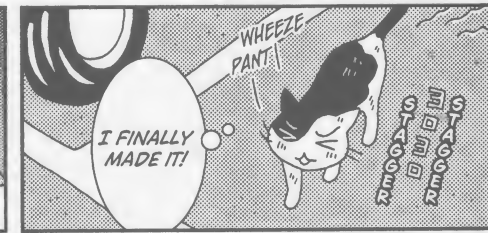
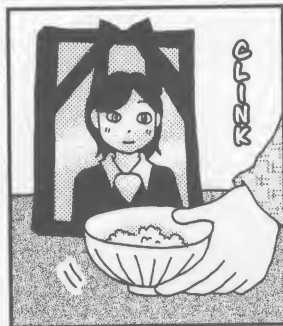
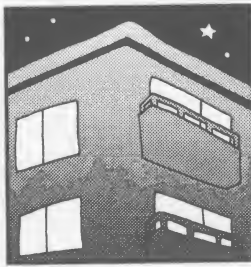
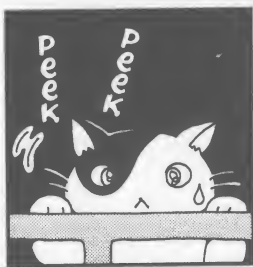


存在すること

CHAPTER 11 EXISTENCE









I'M SURE
YOU'LL
MAKE SOME
LUCKY GUY
VERY HAPPY
SOMEDAY.



YOU'RE
ALWAYS SO
THOUGHT-
FUL, SATO-
SAN.



I REALLY
WANT
TO GIVE
SATO-SAN
FULL-TIME
HOURS.



THAT
WAITRESS
ALWAYS
SHOWS UP
RIGHT WHEN
I NEED HER!



WOULD
YOU
LIKE A
REFILL?



THANKS
FOR THE
TROUBLE.

I DID THE
PREP FOR
TOMOR-
ROW'S
BREAKFAST,
TOO.



THANKS!

SEMPAI, I
GOT THE
LAUNDRY
DONE.



EVERYONE
REALLY
NEEDS ME.



YOU'RE SUCH
A JERK! SHE
WROTE YOU A
LOVE LETTER
AND EVERY-
THING!

I HAVE NO
IDEA WHO
THAT IS.

YOU
KNOW,
THE GIRL
WHO'S
ALWAYS
READING
BY HER-
SELF.

WHO'S
SATO?



SORRY.

OOPS,
SHE'S
RIGHT
THERE.



UH...

WELL, IT'S
NOT LIKE
ANYONE
WOULD
NOTICE IF
SHE JUST
DISAPPEARED,
ANYWAY...



...TO BE
USEFUL TO
PEOPLE.

I TRIED
MY BEST...



AFTER
THAT...



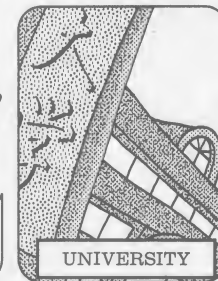
I'LL
BECOME
SOMEONE
WHO
MATTERS!



WOW,
THANKS.



SEMPAI, I
PREPARED
THIS FOR
YOU.



UNIVERSITY

SHE WAS
COMPLETELY
USELESS.



I USED
TO HAVE A
CAT.



SHE WAS
ALWAYS
THERE.



OR
SAD...



BUT
WHENEVER I
WAS HAPPY...

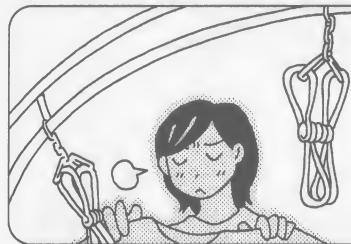


...JUST HOW
MUCH HER
BEING THERE...

...MEANT TO ME.



...THAT
I EVEN-
TUALLY
FORGOT I
WAS EVEN
ACTING.



I ACTED
THE
PART
FOR SO
LONG...

AT LEAST,
THAT'S
WHAT I
THOUGHT.



THOSE
GIRLS
ARE
USE-
LESS.



IT'S ONLY
BECAUSE
I DIDN'T
WANT
PEOPLE TO
THINK I
WAS USE-
LESS.

BUT IT
WASN'T
FOR
OTHER
PEOPLE:
IT WAS
FOR MY-
SELF.



THE
HOUSE
FEELS SO
EMPTY
AND
COLD.



COME
ON IN.

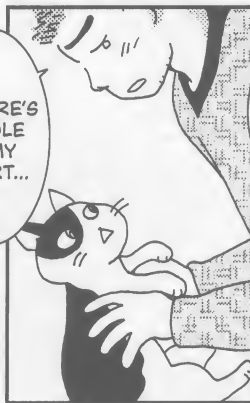
ARE
YOU A
STRAY?



...THERE'S
A HOLE
IN MY
HEART...



IT
FEELS
LIKE...





THANK YOU, THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU.

HELLO?

GZHR GZHR



I'M MANAGING. THANKS FOR CALLING.

YES, HELLO?



YEAH, THANKS.

YOU'VE STILL GOT TO PACK UP YOUR THINGS, RIGHT?

MOM SAID SHE'D DROP BY TOMORROW, TOO.



HEY, SIS.

I CAME OVER TO GIVE YOU A HAND WITH EVERYTHING.



COMING.

ドینگ
ドینگ
ドینگ

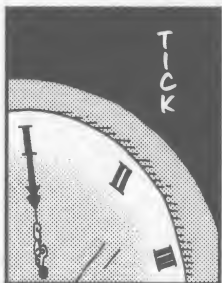


TO HELP EACH OTHER FILL IN THOSE HOLES... THAT IS THE TRUE MEANING OF KINDNESS.



EVERYONE IS HELPING...

...TO FILL IN THE HOLE I LEFT BEHIND...



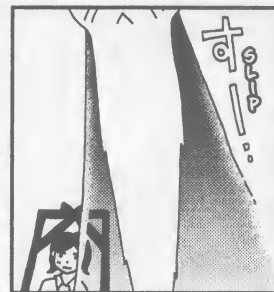
11:00



IT'S TIME.



DEATH IS A HOLE.



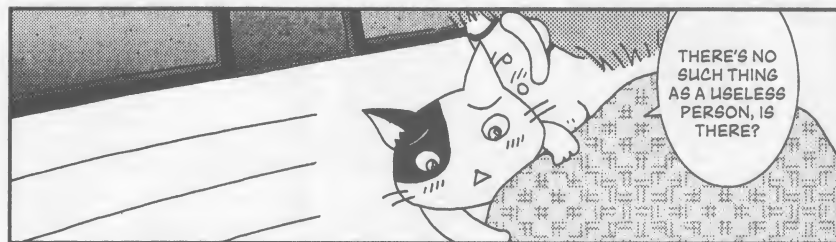
THAT IS HOW THE WORLD CONTINUES TO TURN

AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED.



EVERY DAY, HOLES OPEN UP IN THE WORLD.

BUT EVERYONE COMES TOGETHER AND FILLS IN THOSE HOLES LITTLE BY LITTLE.



THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A USELESS PERSON, IS THERE?



BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WILL HELP TO FILL IT.



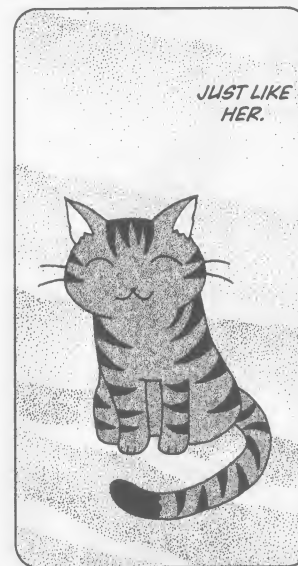
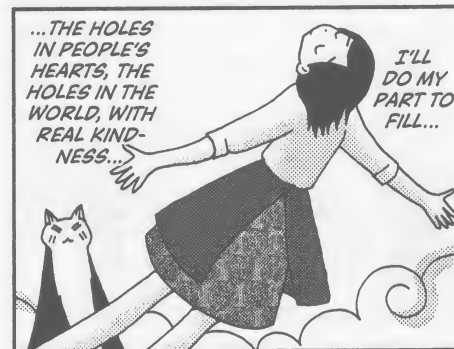
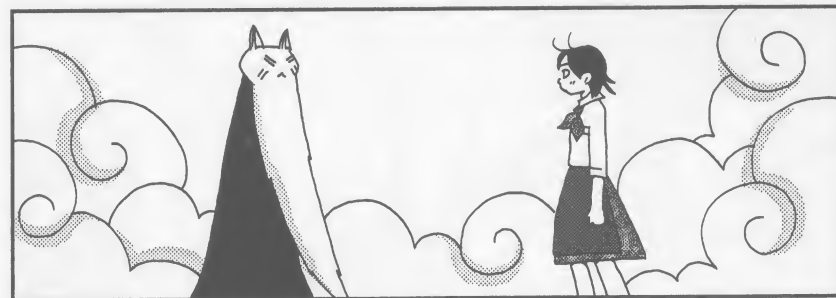
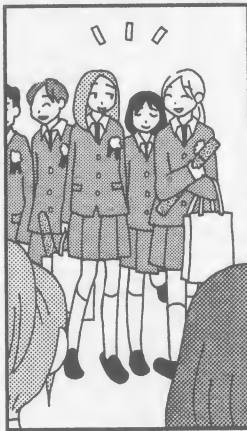
THERE IS ONE IN HIS.

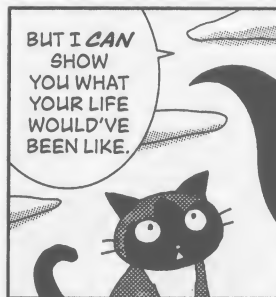
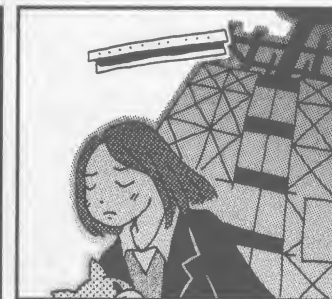
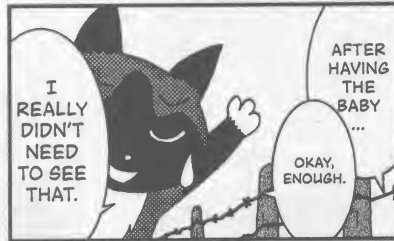
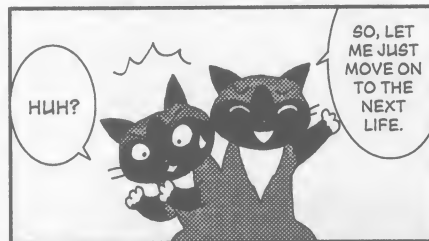
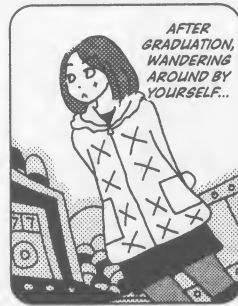
HOLES CAN ALSO OPEN UP IN PEOPLE'S HEARTS AS WELL.

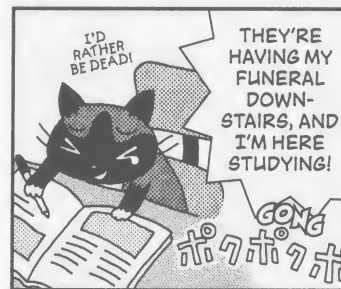
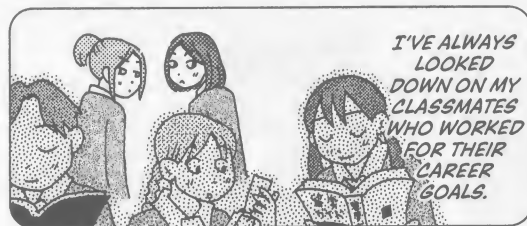
第 12 話

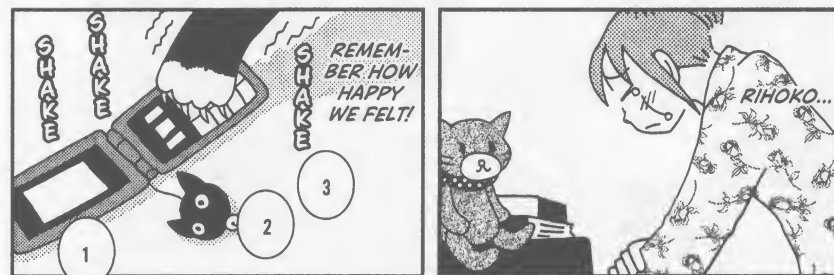
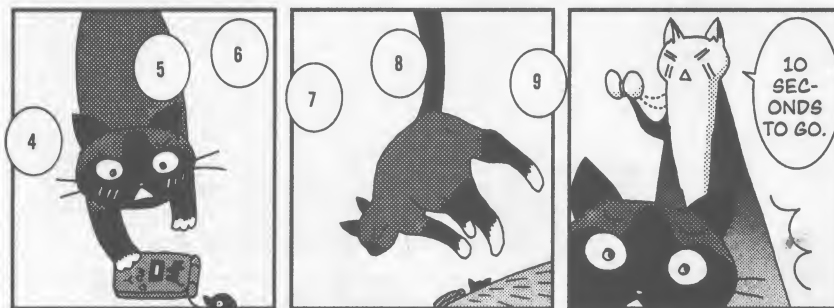
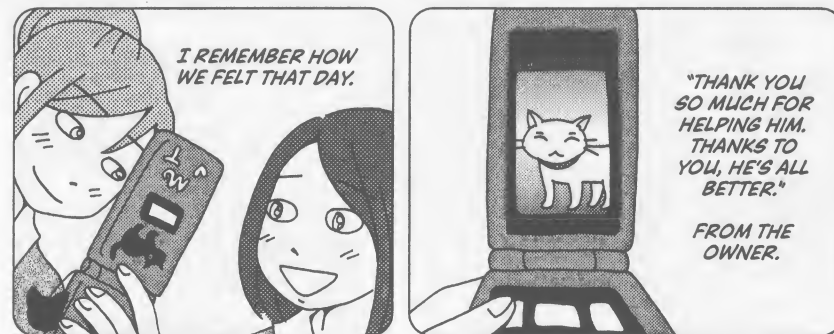
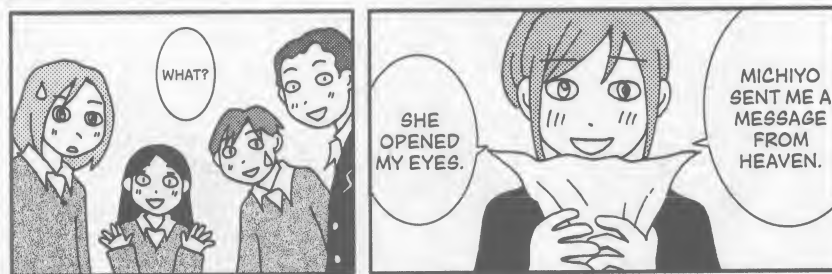
夢からの逃避

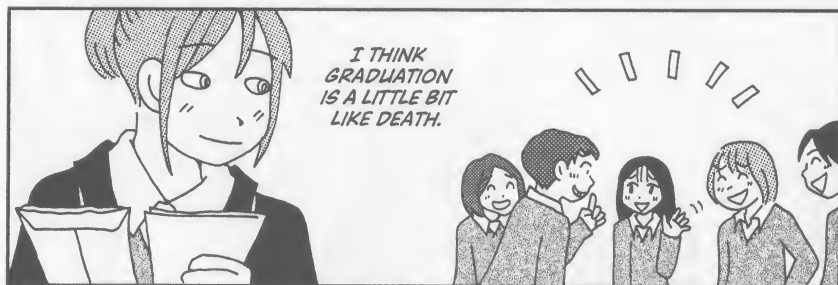
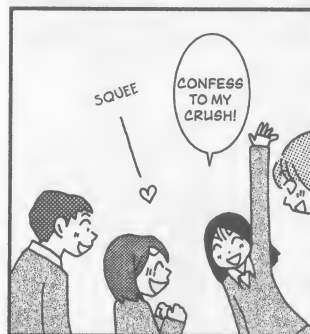
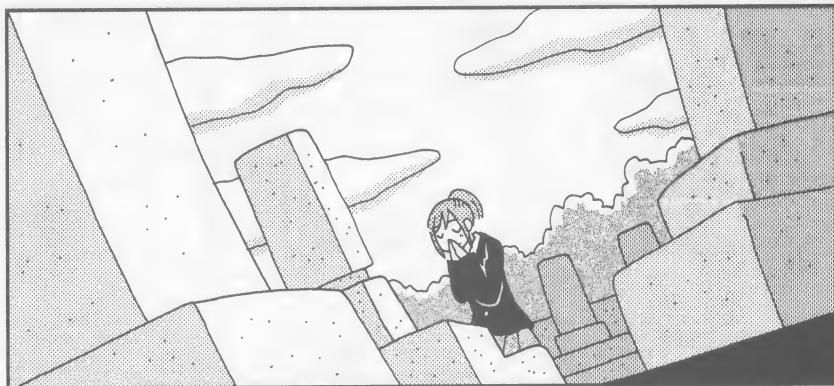
CHAPTER 12 RUNNING FROM
YOUR DREAMS







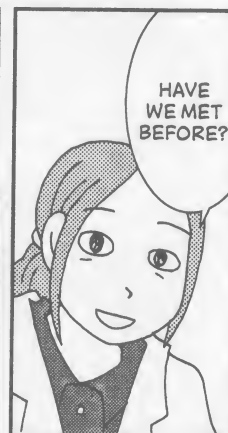


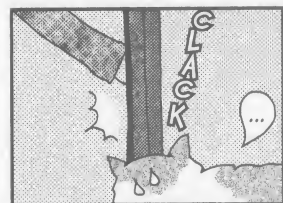
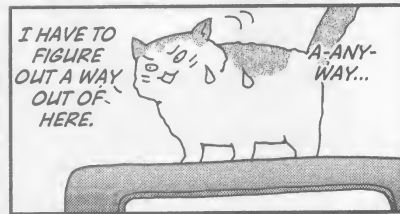


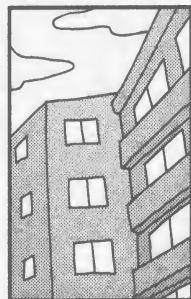
MY DAUGHTER'S
STILL NOT BACK
FROM SCHOOL.



SHE'S
GOING TO
MISS HER
BALLET
CLASS.







IT'S MY
ONE
LOVE!

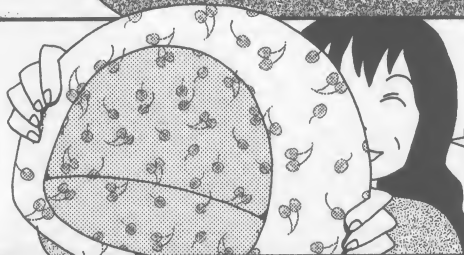
NO, THAT
DOESN'T
EVEN BEGIN
TO COVER
IT.

THIS
BASKET
IS MY
FAVORITE
PLACE
IN THE
WORLD.

THIS IS MY
REASON TO
LIVE.



I BOUGHT
YOU
YOUR
VERY
OWN BED!

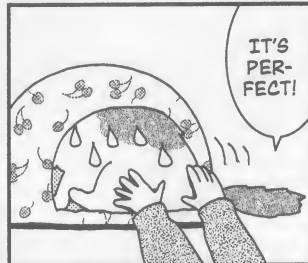


MARRON-
CHAN, LOOK!

I THREW
OUT THAT
OLD LAUN-
DRY BASKET
AND GOT A
NEW ONE.



IT'S PER-
FECT!



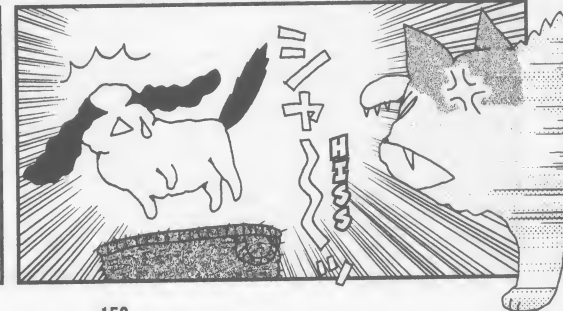
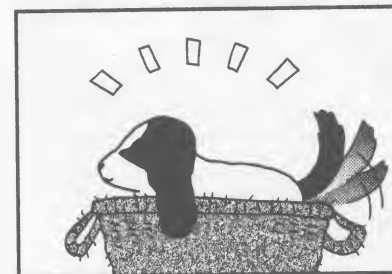
YOU
DON'T
OWN
ME!

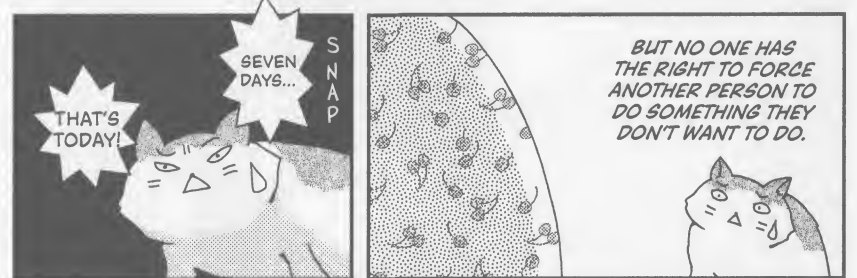
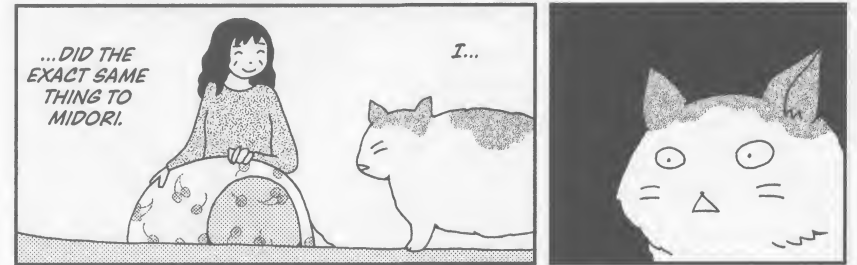
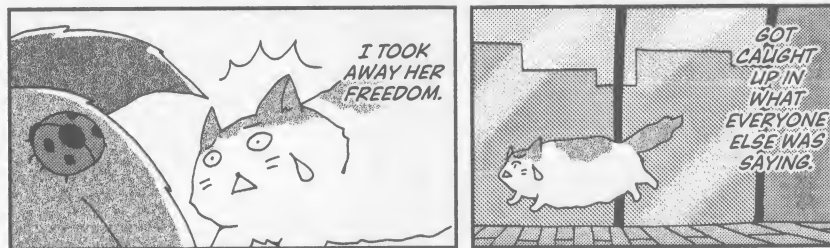
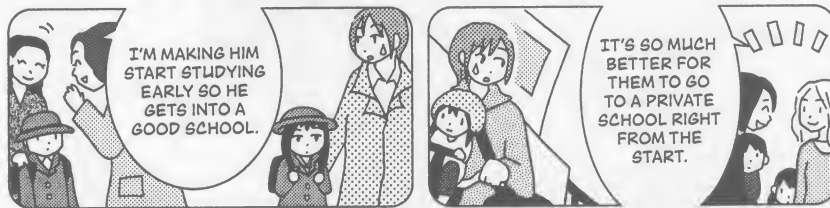
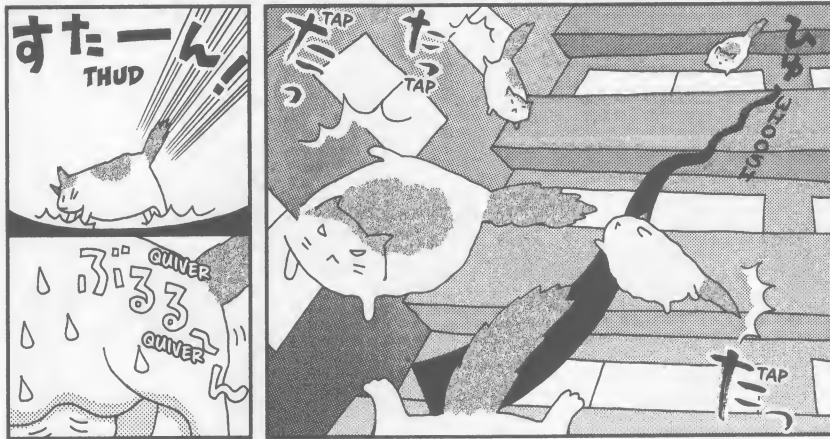
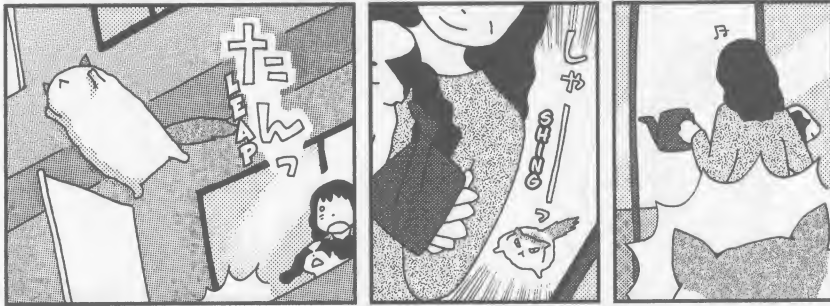


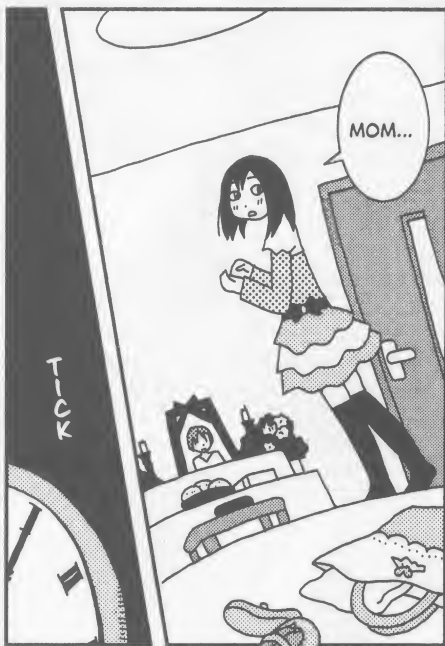
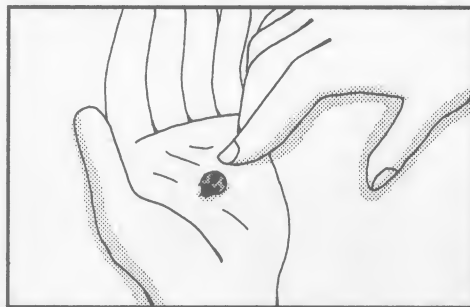
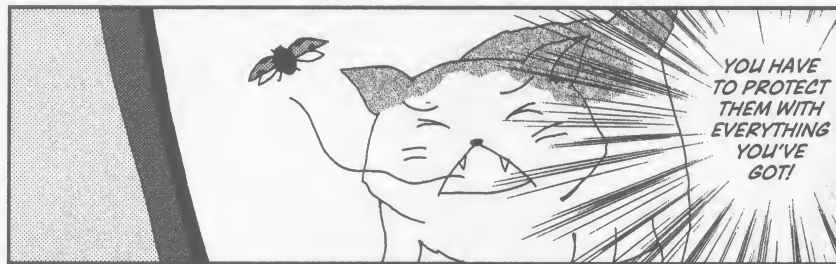
YOU DIDN'T
EVEN ASK
ME...?!

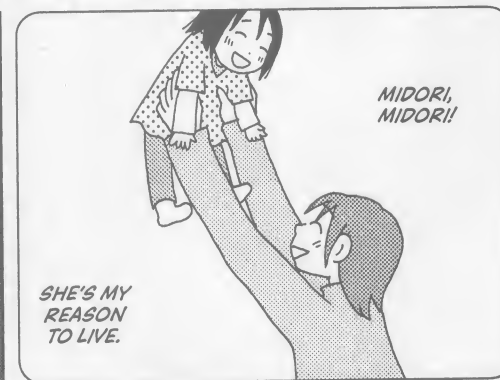
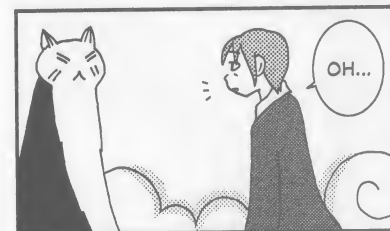


YOU DID
WHAT?!



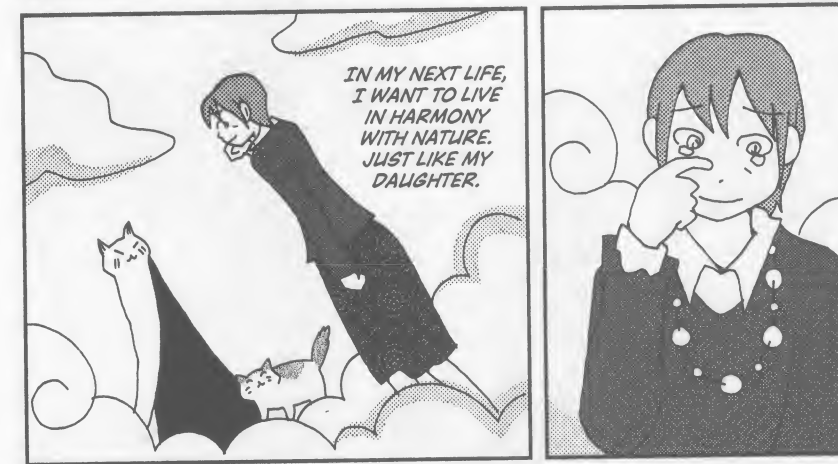
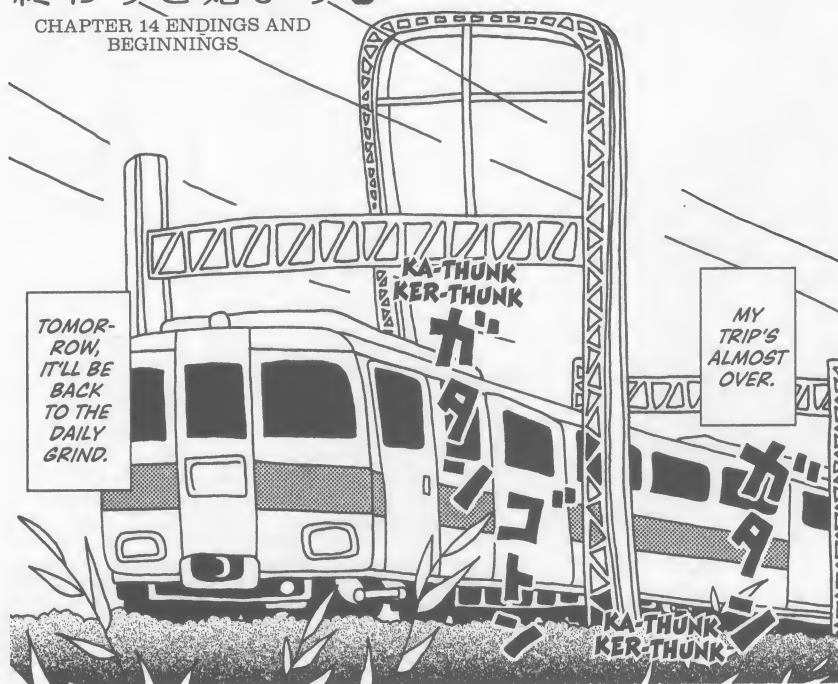


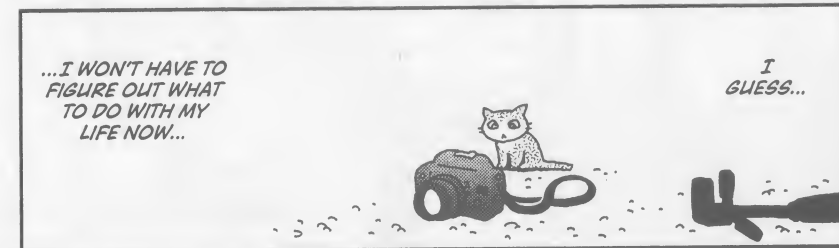
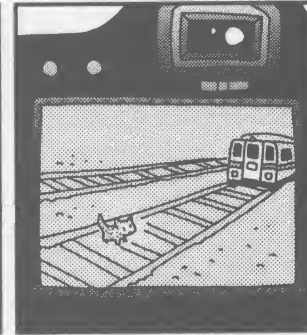
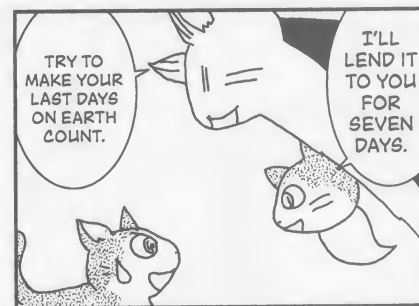
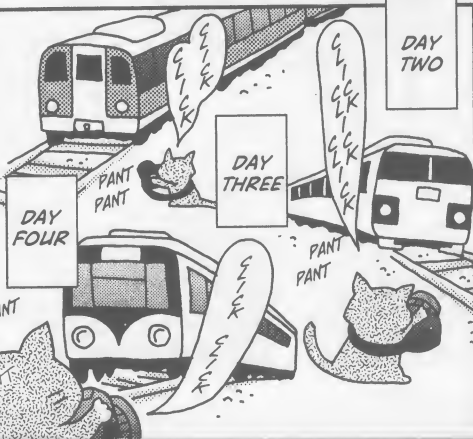
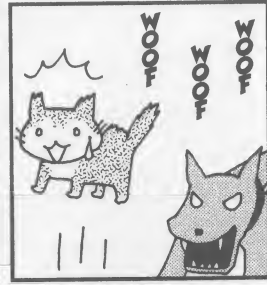
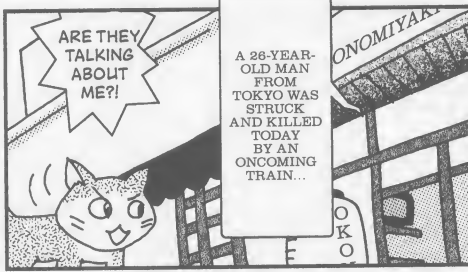


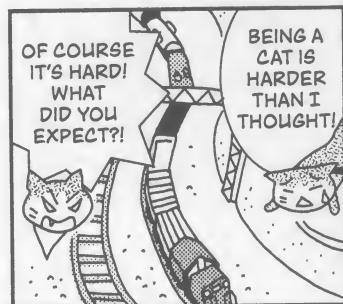
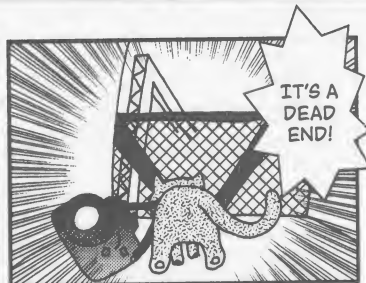


終わりと始まり

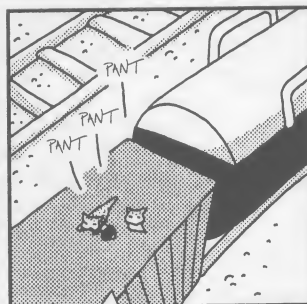
CHAPTER 14 ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS





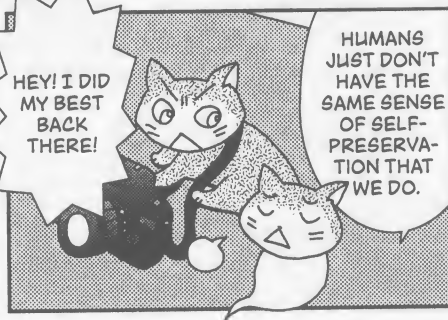
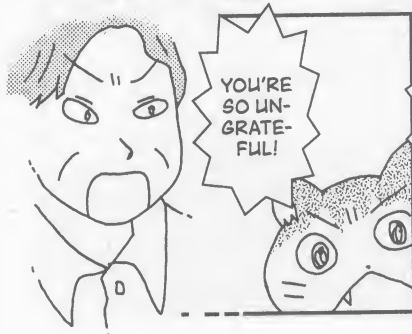


BEING A CAT IS HARDER THAN I THOUGHT!

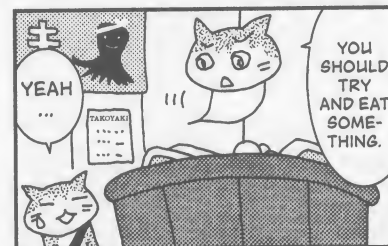
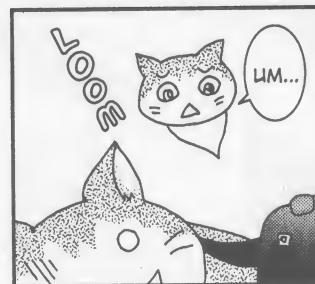


KA-THUNK

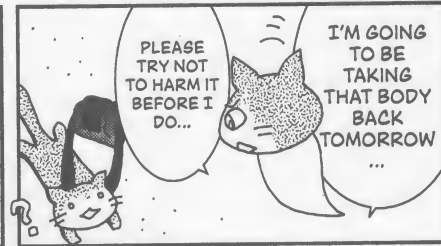
KER-THUNK



HUMANS JUST DON'T HAVE THE SAME SENSE OF SELF-PRESERVATION THAT WE DO.



YOU SHOULD TRY AND EAT SOMETHING.

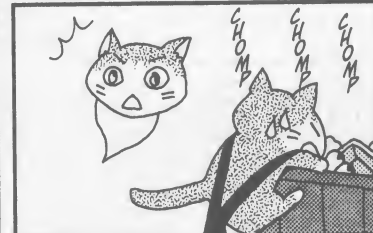


I'M GOING TO BE TAKING THAT BODY BACK TOMORROW ...



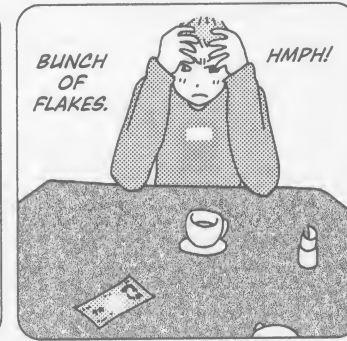
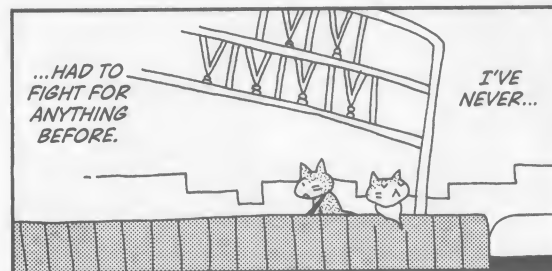
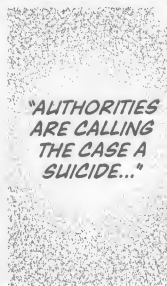
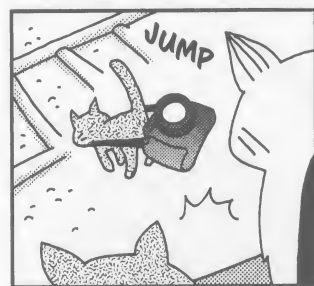
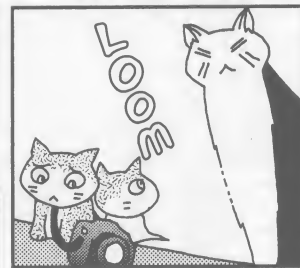
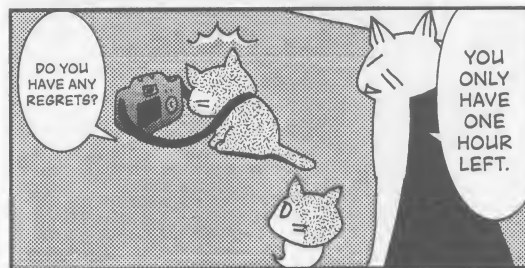
HEY.

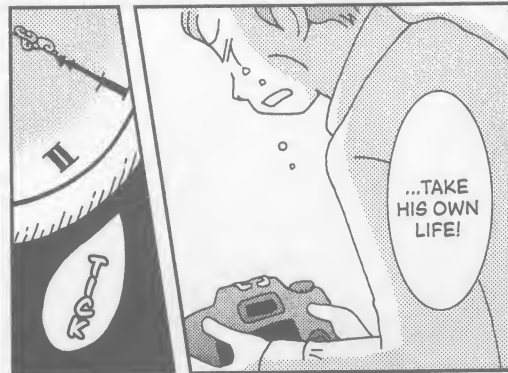
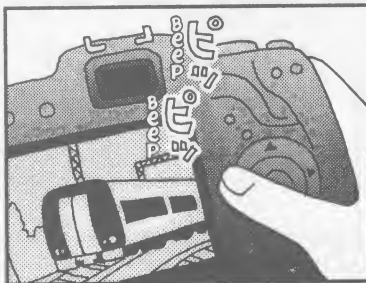
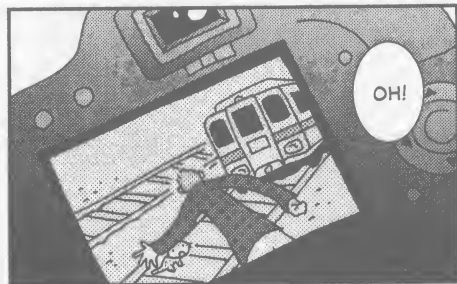
WHAT?



RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN!

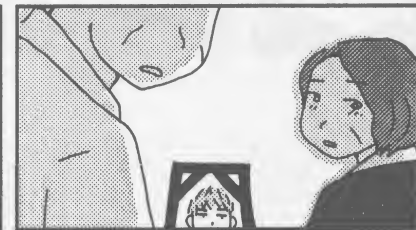
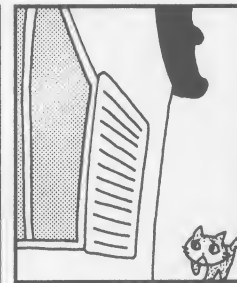
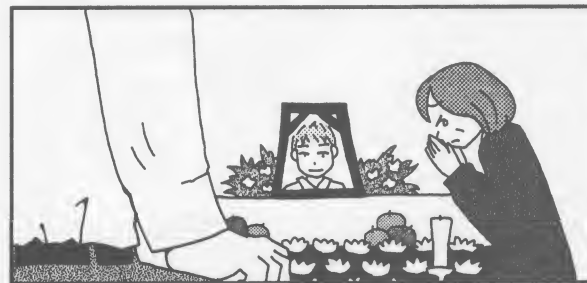
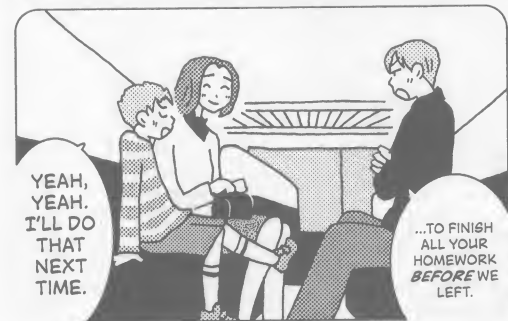


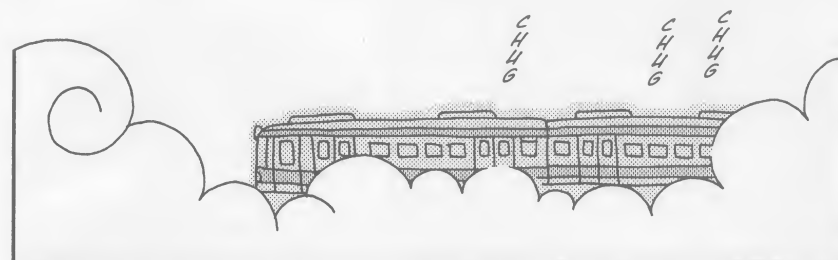
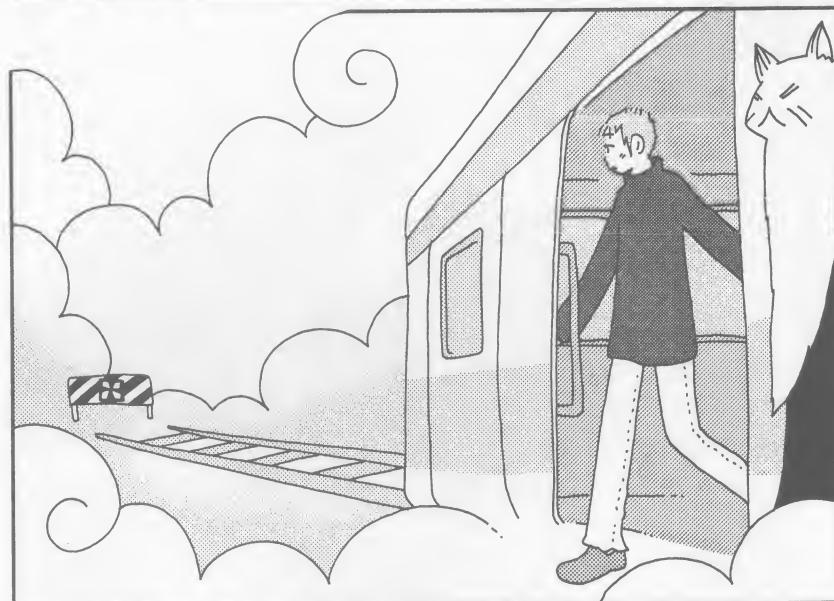




I ALWAYS FELT SO DEPRESSED AT THE END OF A TRIP.

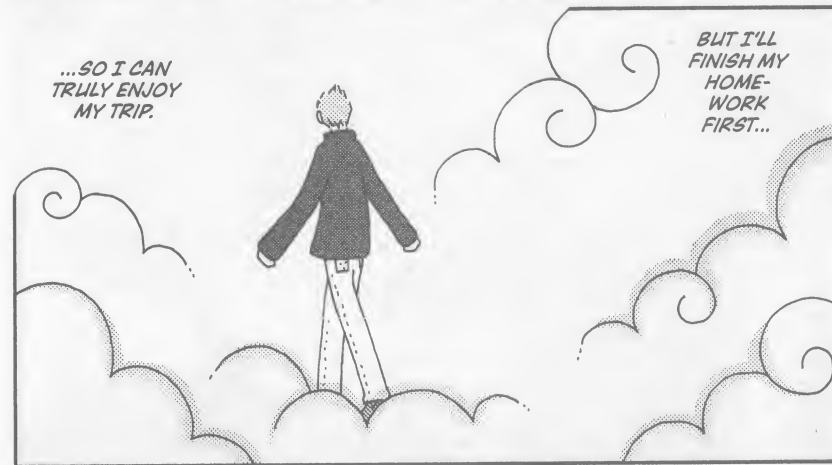
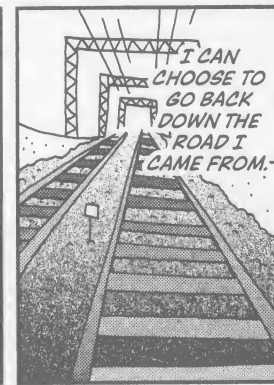
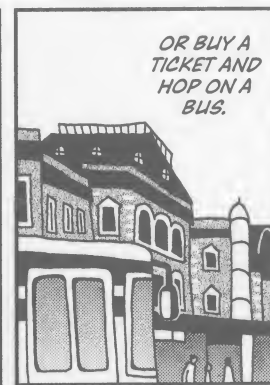
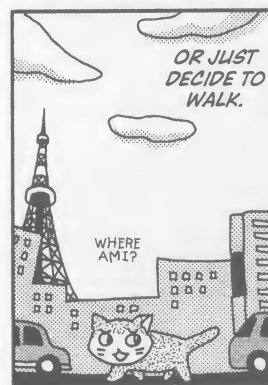
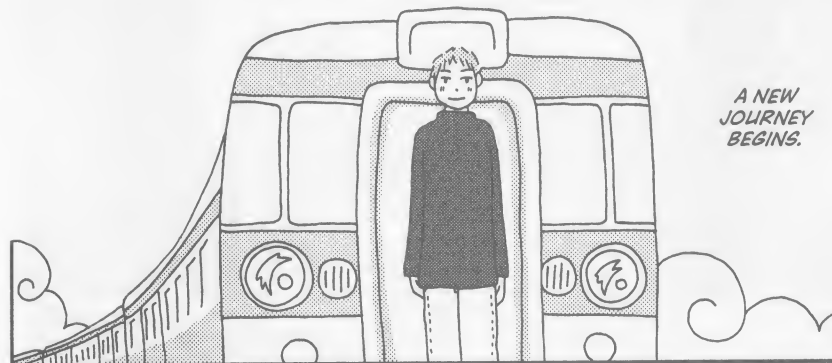
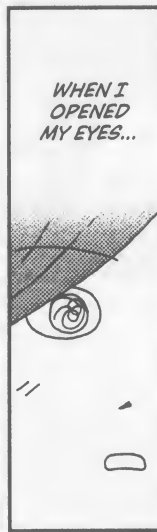
KER-THINK
KA-THINK
KER-THINK

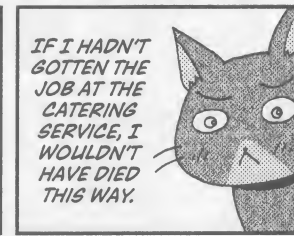
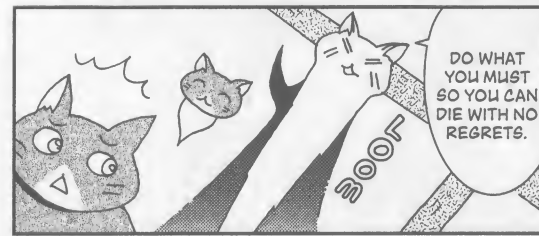
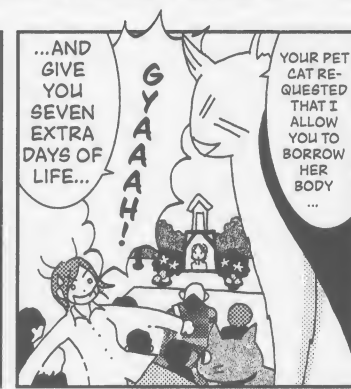
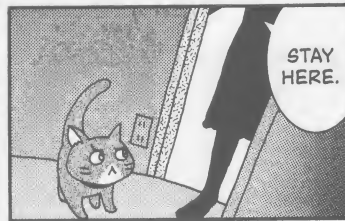
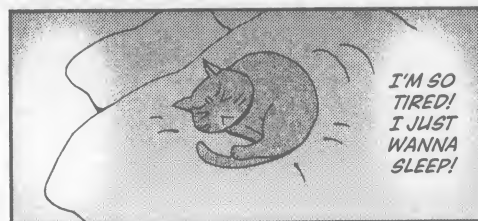
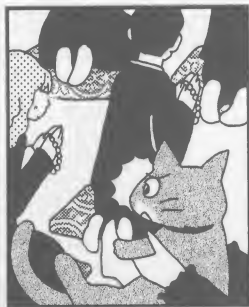
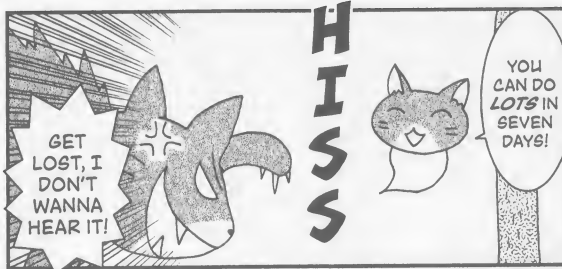


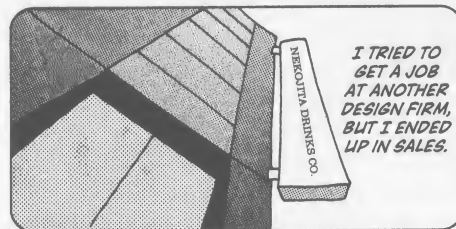


人生の転機に

CHAPTER 15 THE TURNING POINT







I TRIED TO GET A JOB AT ANOTHER DESIGN FIRM, BUT I ENDED UP IN SALES.

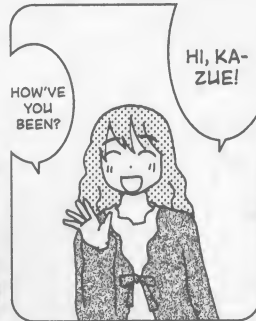


ANY COMPANY THAT'D PICK MARIKO'S STUPID DESIGN WASN'T GOING TO STAY IN BUSINESS FOR LONG.

SHORTLY AFTER, THE COMPANY WENT UNDER.

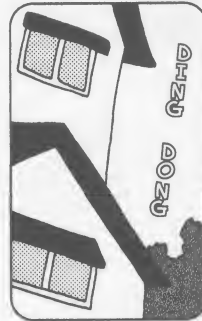


GUESS WHAT? I STARTED MY OWN ONLINE SHOP!



HOW'VE YOU BEEN?

HI, KAZUE!



I WANTED TO GIVE YOU ONE.



I MADE CUPS AND COASTERS OF SOME OF MY ILLUSTRATIONS, AND THEY'VE BEEN SELLING REALLY WELL.



YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME BY WITHOUT CALLING ME FIRST.

ANYWAY, I'M BUSY WITH WORK.



I'M NOT INTO THIS STUFF ANYMORE.

YOU HAVEN'T GROWN UP AT ALL, HAVE YOU?



YOU, TOO?

MARIKO, YOU'RE APPLYING TO THAT UNIVERSITY, TOO?

...AND WE GOT SIMILAR GRADES IN SCHOOL.



THAT'S ADORABLE!

WE LOVED ALL THE SAME STUFF...



WE WENT TO THE SAME JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL. MARIKO AND I WERE SAME CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.



OK DESIGN - PRODUCTION FIRM

...AND GOT HIRED BY THE SAME COMPANY.



EXAM MARKS

WE BOTH FLUNKED ...



THAT'S AMAZING!

MARIKO-CHAN, I JUST HEARD YOU WON THE CHARACTER DESIGN CONTEST!

NO WAY! THEY'RE JUST GONNA GIVE IT TO SOMEONE WITH MORE SENIORITY, ANYWAY.

LOOKING FOR NEW DESIGNS THE COMPANY FUNFUN IS LOOKING FOR A NEW MASOOT CHARACTER

I'M THINKING ABOUT SUBMITTING A DESIGN. HOW ABOUT YOU?



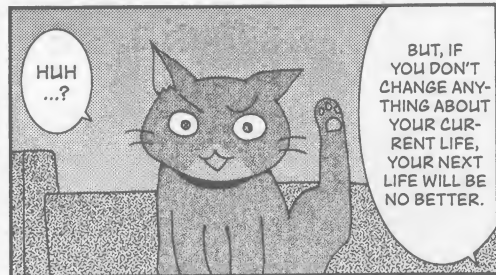
...SO I KNOW...

I HAVE A FEW MEMORIES OF MY LAST LIFE AS A HUMAN...



UM...

THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER MY SON FOR SO LONG.

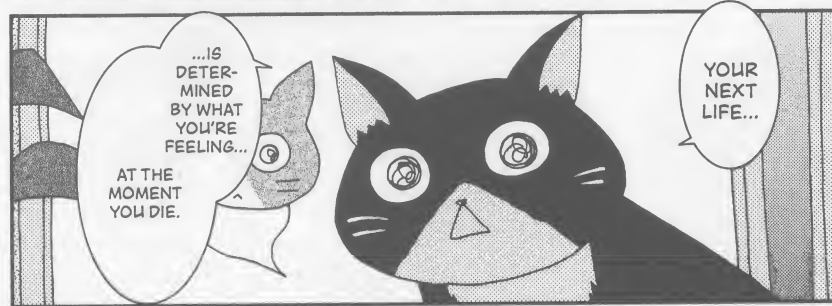


HUH ...?

BUT, IF YOU DON'T CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR CURRENT LIFE, YOUR NEXT LIFE WILL BE NO BETTER.

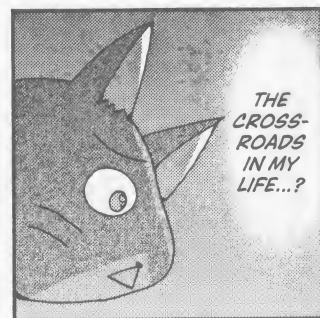


...THAT YOU WILL BE REINCAR-NATED.



...IS DETERMINED BY WHAT YOU'RE FEELING...
AT THE MOMENT YOU DIE.

YOUR NEXT LIFE...



THE CROSS-ROADS IN MY LIFE...?



...HOW YOUR FUTURE IS DETERMINED BY WHAT YOU DO AT THE CROSS-ROADS IN YOUR LIFE.

JUST LIKE...



SHE'S STILL GOT THREE DAYS LEFT!

SHE'S COMPLETELY WASTED FOUR WHOLE DAYS.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH KAZUE-CHAN.



HISS

GET OUTTA HERE!

RATTLE



I JUST WANT TO GO TO SLEEP AND NEVER WAKE UP!



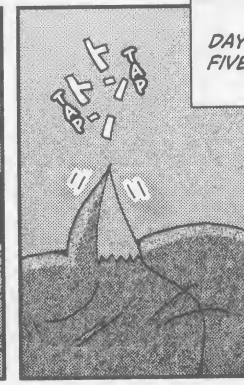
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN GO BACK IN TIME AND RE-DO MY UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMS.

HMPH

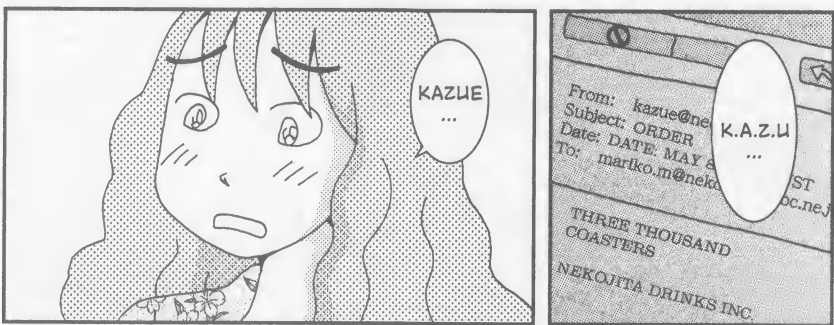
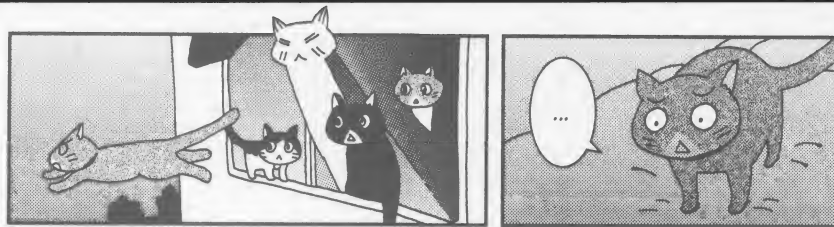
IT'S NOT LIKE THREE DAYS WILL CHANGE ANYTHING.

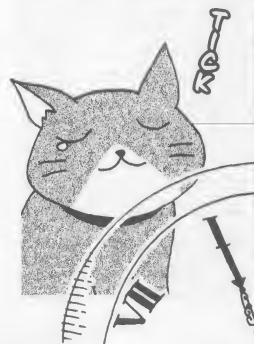
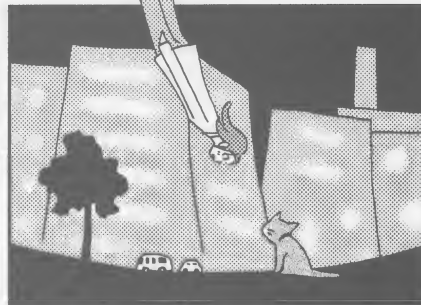


NOW WHAT DO YOU WANT?



DAY FIVE







TO FOLLOW THE ENTIRE LIFE OF JUST ONE PERSON FROM BEGINNING TO END DOES NOT A STORY MAKE! TO WEAVE A STORY, A CHARACTER'S DAILY LIFE AND THEIR PAST MUST BE EXAMINED. ONLY THEN CAN WE CHIP AWAY AT THE RELATIONSHIPS, CIRCUMSTANCES AND EVENTS; THE COMPLEX THREADS THAT TIE A PERSON'S STORY TOGETHER.

ONLY THEN DOES THE STORY BEGIN TO EMERGE... BUT OFTEN, THAT STORY WILL HIT A WALL.

TO TELL THIS STORY, I STRUGGLED ALONGSIDE MY CHARACTERS TO OVERCOME THE WALLS THEY CAME UPON. I BELIEVE THAT I CONTINUE TO WRITE MANGA TO FEEL THAT SENSE OF RELIEF AND REFRESHMENT WHEN THOSE DIFFICULTIES HAVE BEEN SURMOUNTED.

EVERYBODY HAS A BEAUTIFUL STORY WITHIN THEM! I WROTE THIS BOOK WITH THE HOPE THAT EVERYONE CAN FIND THEIR OWN STORY AND HAPPINESS.

THIS IS MY FIRST FULL BOOK IN MY TWENTY YEARS OF DRAWING MANGA. I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED ME...ALL MY READERS, MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY, AND OF COURSE ALL THE CATS IN THE WORLD.

RISA MOTOYAMA, 2010

*CHAPTERS ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN HOUBUNSHA'S "MANGA TIME ORIGINAL" FROM APRIL 2009 TO JUNE 2010.

